VISIT TO MAIDSTONE—See page 5

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence | FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE | No. 1850, September 4, 1954

THE SECRET OF THE ARCHERS

Why Radio's farming family is popular with young and old, town and countryfolk alike

The Archers of the B B C have attracted a vast audience of both adults and children during the past four years. The secret of their universal appeal is hard to define, but C N correspondent Edward Lanchbery tried to find it in an interview with the scriptwriters, Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason, and programme editor Godfrey Baseley.

CLUTCHING their moneyboxes, two small girls walked bravely up to the reception desk at the B B C Midland studio.

"It's for Dan Archer," they explained, pushing their savings across the desk. "He says he hasn't got enough money to buy the boar he wants."

That incident is typical of the hold that radio's farming family has gained during the four years of its existence. To both children and adults the Archers have become a real family, reflecting the real-life problems of those who live on the land.

LISTENER EXPERTS

If a field of Dan Archer's wheat does not yield the proper crop for its size, there will be plenty of grown-ups writing to say so, just as there are children who may forget that the family owe their existence and adventures to script-writers Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason, and programme editor Godfrey Baseley.

The idea for a radio farming family sprang from a meeting of farmers and other people interested in agriculture. It took place in 1950, and Godfrey Baseley, as B B C Midland Regional producer of agricultural programmes, attended.

"What we want," said an unknown farmer when the question of publicising knowledge of agriculture was being discussed, "is a farming Dick Barton."

The remark, made in jest, stayed in Godfrey Baseley's mind, and he began to think of a farming serial as a means of telling people what was happening on the land.

Most farms in this country are small tenant farms of about 100 acres, so that obviously was the setting for the family. The farmer's children could be used to reflect the struggle and gradual improvement in farming conditions.

There would also need to be a big farmer who could afford to experiment with the latest developments in cultivation and machinery, and a bad farmer for contrasting good and bad points on the land.

NAME FIRST

With this picture in his mind, Godfrey Baseley approached Edward Mason and Geoffrey Webb, who were then writing the Dick Barton serials.

After making lots of farmyard noises and vowel sounds of *err's* and *ooo's* and *aah's*, they produced the name, the Archers, which also suggested good yeoman stock. For some time, that was the only thing on which they could agree.

Godfrey Baseley wanted the Archers to be an educational documentary. From the viewpoint of the professional serial writer, Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason saw a farming serial in terms of plenty of dramatic incidents like mad bulls, barns on fire, and battles with poachers.

Arguments waxed furiously. To Godfrey Baseley the scriptwriters' outlines and suggestions sounded artificial and unlike the farming community with which he was familiar. In the end Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason took the obvious course of buying their first pair of Wellington boots and going into the country to see a farm for themselves.

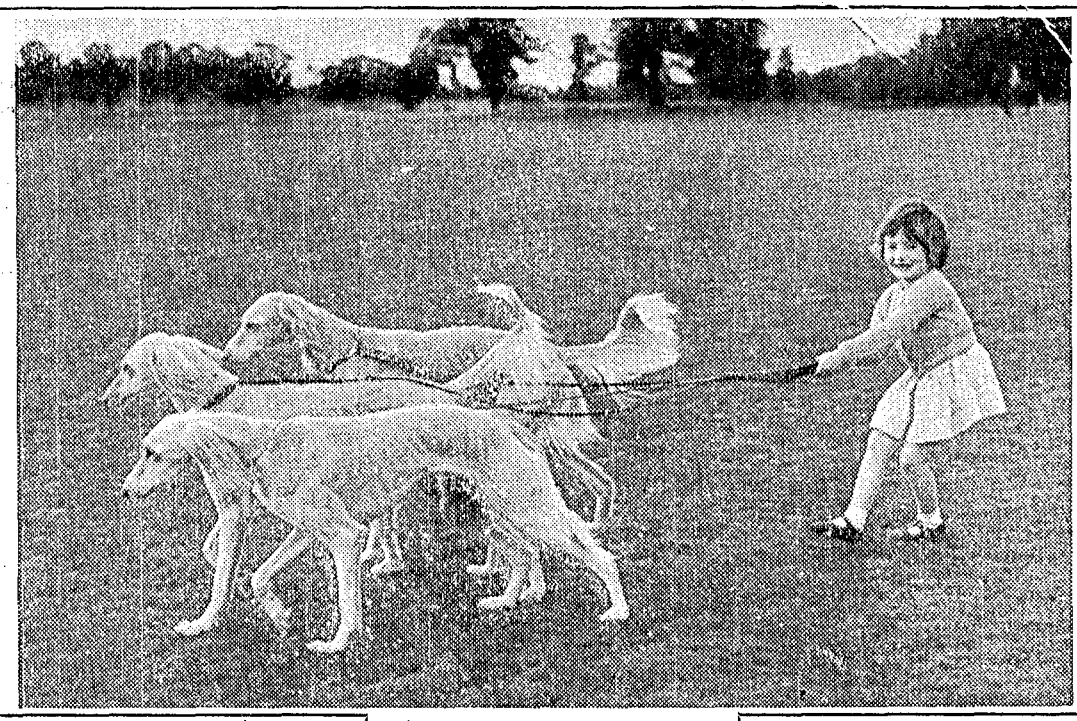
TRIAL RUN

With some doubts on their part—for the story seemed very slow after Dick Barton—the Archers was given a week's trial on the Midland, and then a month's trial on the Light programme. The response of the listening audience was immediate. The Archers had arrived to stay.

The scripts are written—a month's programmes at a time—alternately by Edward Mason and Geoffrey Webb. They write to an agreed general story outline and incorporate the information which Godfrey Baseley supplies on the farming problems, developments, and likely trends during the period the instalments will be on the air.

The Wellington boots are now well-worn. Every few weeks the writers spend two or three days visiting farms and markets to obtain first-hand knowledge of the particular sidelights of farm life which they are going to portray. Often they take recordings of the sounds of the appropriate animals or farm machinery to provide authentic atmosphere. In spite of all precautions, it is easy

Continued on page 2



Three-in-hand

Little Rachael Lysley of Bury St. Edmunds has her hands full with three salukis.

MEMORIAL TO A DOLPHIN

A group of New Zealand animal-lovers are collecting money for a memorial to Pelorus Jack, a 14-foot dolphin which for about 30 years was known to all seafaring men in Cook Strait, New Zealand.

During that time he met practically every steamer, day and night, on the Nelson-Wellington run. Leaping and gambolling under the bows for about 20 minutes, he guided them through the narrow water separating D'Urville Island from the Mainland.

He was shot at a few times until the New Zealand Government decided to protect him by an Order-in-Council. Sometimes he would disappear for a few weeks and his reappearance was always hailed with joy and relief.

In 1914 he disappeared for the last time.

TREASURE IN THE FARMHOUSE

Three schoolboys between 10 and 13, playing in a derelict farmhouse near Bolton, knocked against a loose panel under the stairs—and revealed a tin box filled with £1 notes.

After reporting their find to the police, the boys returned to the farmhouse, with two policemen, and found two more boxes crammed with banknotes. Altogether the boxes contained over £1100.

The farmhouse had been empty since its owner, a bachelor, died last April.

N'ICE FOR THE CHILDREN

When an ice-cream lorry overturned at Hockering, Norfolk, the driver had to give away most of his seven-ton load because it was melting in the sun.

Buckets and basins were used by children to collect the ice-cream. The driver also stopped cars and buses on the highway and presented passengers with blocks of ice-cream.

JAM JAR JOB

How long does it take a school to collect 32,534 jam jars, and how much are they worth when collected? The girls of Hope Park Secondary School, Prestwich, know the answers.

It took them a year to collect that number of jars and they earned £69 for their effort. With the money they bought equipment for the school.

RECOMMENDED

At Firth Park Junior Library, Sheffield, a committee of six children aged between 10 and 14 meet once a month to recommend new books.

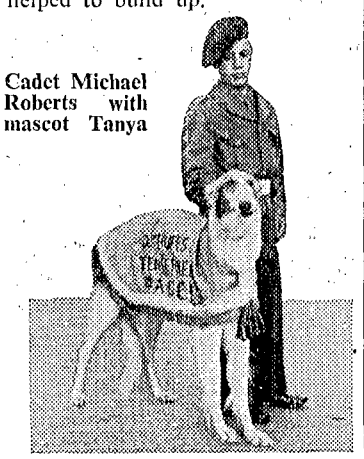
The committee spends two hours at each meeting reading reviews in newspapers, magazines, and publishers' catalogues. They then compile a list of 25 books which they would like to have in the library.

MASCOT OF A PROUD BAND

The band of the 2nd Battalion Buffs Cadets at Tenterden (Kent) are rightly proud of their mascot, Tanya. She belongs to their founder, Mr. William H. Healey, and accompanies the band on all special occasions, looking very smart in her embroidered coat, as can be seen in this picture of her with Cadet Michael Roberts.

With Tanya now in the Cadets, Mr. Healey has brought every available member of his family into service. He himself served with the Royal West Kent Regiment for 35 years, 15 of them as Drum Major; two sons still serve with the same band; another, serving with the same regiment, has just been awarded the Military Medal; a fourth has just finished his time; a fifth is in the Marines; and the youngest son is in the 2nd Battalion of the Buffs Cadets.

And now Tanya is serving, just as proudly as the lads, with the band which her master has so ably helped to build up.



Cadet Michael Roberts with mascot Tanya

ON OTHER PAGES

COLONIES MARCHING TO SELF-RULE	2
CAMERA CORNER	4
RADIO AND T V NEWS	4
SCOTLAND'S SHOP WINDOW	7
MAKING THEMSELVES AT HOME IN THE SNOW	7
NEWS FROM THE ZOO	10
SPORTS SHORTS	11

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COLONIES MARCHING TO SELF-RULE

CN Diplomatic Correspondent

AN important milestone in the march of the Colonies towards self-rule will be reached next month when the Colonial Service becomes her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service.

For some of the smaller and less advanced British territories the change will have no great significance. Their Governors or High Commissioners will continue to tour the Queen's protectorates, advise the local administrations on development schemes, and look after the welfare of the people.

This will be the situation in the Solomon Islands, the Falklands, St. Helena, and Tristan da Cunha —to name only a few. But for other territories, the discarding of the description "colonial" from the administrative Service rendered by Britain, will be an important event.

It means that even those territories which have not yet reached independence, although they are rapidly approaching it, can be recognised as having moved beyond the stage when every important decision affecting them has to be taken by the Mother Country.

CLAIMS TO INDEPENDENCE

The Overseas Civil Service will perform functions similar to those of the Colonial Service, but it will pay greater attention to the difficulties which confront the colonies as they attain self-government.

The Gold Coast, Nigeria, Malaya, and the hoped-for Federation of the West Indies, all have claims to independence in the near future.

And Britain, having guided them forward to this stage, has a responsibility for seeing that they embark on their careers as fully fledged States without undue handicaps.

For instance, the general wish of the developing Colonies is to retain a place in the Commonwealth.

No rules of membership have ever been formulated for the Commonwealth of Nations, and the prospect of a sudden influx of new and equal members has caused some concern in South Africa, where the Government feel that new difficulties of co-operation would be created.

There, it is suggested that before the balance of views on policy is altered by the admission to the Commonwealth of further newcomers with equal rights, the existing members should be consulted.

"TWO-TIER" COMMONWEALTH

Britain does not want any former colony to fear that her entry to the Commonwealth will be made difficult. Therefore, when the next Conference of Ministers of the Commonwealth is arranged this problem of qualification for membership will without doubt come under discussion.

A suggestion has already been put forward that there should be a "two-tier" Commonwealth, with junior and senior members. But this was unwelcome to Colonies keen to have equal status with other Commonwealth Nations.

Britain, as the Mother Country, cannot neglect her responsibility towards the youngest self-governing members of the Commonwealth. At the same time, the goodwill of the great Dominions is vital to them.

All the indications are that Commonwealth Conferences will take place more often—not because more and more difficulties are expected, but because discussion between friends who have no written rules of association is the best course to pursue in the interests of all.

THE SECRET OF THE ARCHERS

Continued from page 1

to make an unwitting slip, and this is where editor Godfrey Baseley steps in.

Once Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason were congratulating themselves on a recording they had obtained of some calves, when Godfrey Baseley arrived.

"No good," he said. "Those calves are hungry. That's bad farming."

Another time they recorded some rooks, but found by the time the recording would be used it would be a different time of year and the note of the rook's call would have changed.

The Archers' audience is made up almost equally of adults and children, and of both town and country dwellers. The secret of the programme's varied appeal is difficult to define.

"We wish we knew," said Geoffrey Webb when the question was put to him. "There's the family unit, of course, and in the family on the land you get back to the essentials of life. I suppose for city people it may bring an atmosphere of quiet and relief from the pace of town life."

"Townspeople would hate to live in the country but they do like to get down there for a day out," said Edward Mason. "I think they may look upon the Archers rather like that excursion. The programme gives them just that fifteen minutes' outing in the course of their daily life. Country people, of course, would be attracted because it is about them and their own interests."

Said Godfrey Baseley: "There always has been a fundamental interest in the land, but the juvenile appeal of the Archers probably narrows down to the farmyard noises. It is the sounds of the animals, and the milk in the churns, and the tractor on the land, which I'd say more than anything brings them to listen in at 6.45 with the same enthusiasm that they had for the totally different Dick Barton serials."

MEETING OF THE CHURCHES

A great meeting of Christians is now taking place at Evanston, on the southern shores of Lake Michigan. The second assembly of the World Council of Churches is being held there, and many thousands of delegates and visitors now throng the city which only a century ago was a stretch of forest.

Then a few young men from Chicago decided to set up a university in the forest for the little groups of homes emerging in the wilderness. That log-cabin university is still there, but round it have grown the vast buildings of North-western University with its 8000 students.

THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

To this city of Evanston the World Council of Churches, which has over 160 different Christian communions in its membership, has come to discuss one of the great themes of Christian doctrine, The Christian Hope.

Delegates are there from every country permitted to send them. There are eleven from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. From Queen Salote's kingdom of Tonga there is handsome young John Havea, and from India the romantically dressed leaders of the Mar Thoma Church, the oldest Christian Church in India.

Over one hundred delegates are present from Britain, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the President of the Methodist Conference, and the Chairmen of the Baptist and the Congregational Unions.

NOTABLE ABSENTEE

A huge hall, partly sports arena and partly auditorium, is the scene of the great meetings presided over alternately by the presidents of the Council—the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of Thyatira, Dr. Marc Boegner of France, Bishop Berggrav of Norway, and Bishop Bromley Oxnam of the United States.

By securing the admission of delegates from the "Iron Curtain" countries the Council has shown that it is able to hold east and west together in its fellowship. But there is one notable absentee, and that is China. The flowing robes of Africa are there, the dignified costumes of India and Japan, but the graceful blues and pinks of China are absent—a sad reflection of the isolation of the Christian Church in China.

AMERICAN HOSPITALITY

To wander through the leafy boulevards at Evanston (writes a CN correspondent) is a continuous revelation of the breadth of the Christian faith. From east and south the faces of brown and black, of white and yellow look toward the light and sun of Lake Michigan together.

The hospitality of the American people is boundless. They have subscribed many thousands of dollars to make the delegates welcome so that they will go home to their separate churches with a renewed faith and gratitude for the genuine goodwill of a great country.

News from Everywhere

TIME HONOURED

Still keeping good time in Perth, Australia, is a watch made in England in 1522.

Among a party of climbers who ascended 4406-foot Ben Nevis recently was 76-year-old Mr. Daniel Holsen of Dudley, Worcestershire.

The British Museum has been presented with a fossilised tooth of a fish, believed to be 300 million years old, which was found in a block of limestone at Brassington, Derbyshire.

A 25,000-acre petrified forest in the south Argentine territory of Santa Cruz is to become a national monument. The world's largest petrified forest, it is 50 million years old.

FOR TRAIN SPOTTERS

A special excursion train from St. Pancras to Derby Locomotive Works is being run on September 2. Passengers will be taken on a conducted tour of the works by experienced guides.

Swans from Bedford have been sent to the South African town of Benoni to help to stock a wild life sanctuary.

By paddling a canoe from Dover to Gris Nez in 3 hours 38 minutes, Major Hugh Bruce and Lieutenant David Mitchell of the Royal Marines have set up a new cross-Channel record.

A kitten smothered in oil was found in the axle box of an express which had just completed a 300-mile run from Crewe to Perth. After a bath and a meal it soon recovered.

DICK WHITTINGTON'S CAT

On duty at Rotherham, Yorkshire, Fire Station when a call was received for the rescue of a cat on top of a telegraph pole was Station Officer "Dick" Whittington. The cat was freed.

The Queen Elizabeth broke one of her records when she sailed to New York with 2189 passengers aboard, the largest number of civilians ever carried across the Atlantic on one voyage.

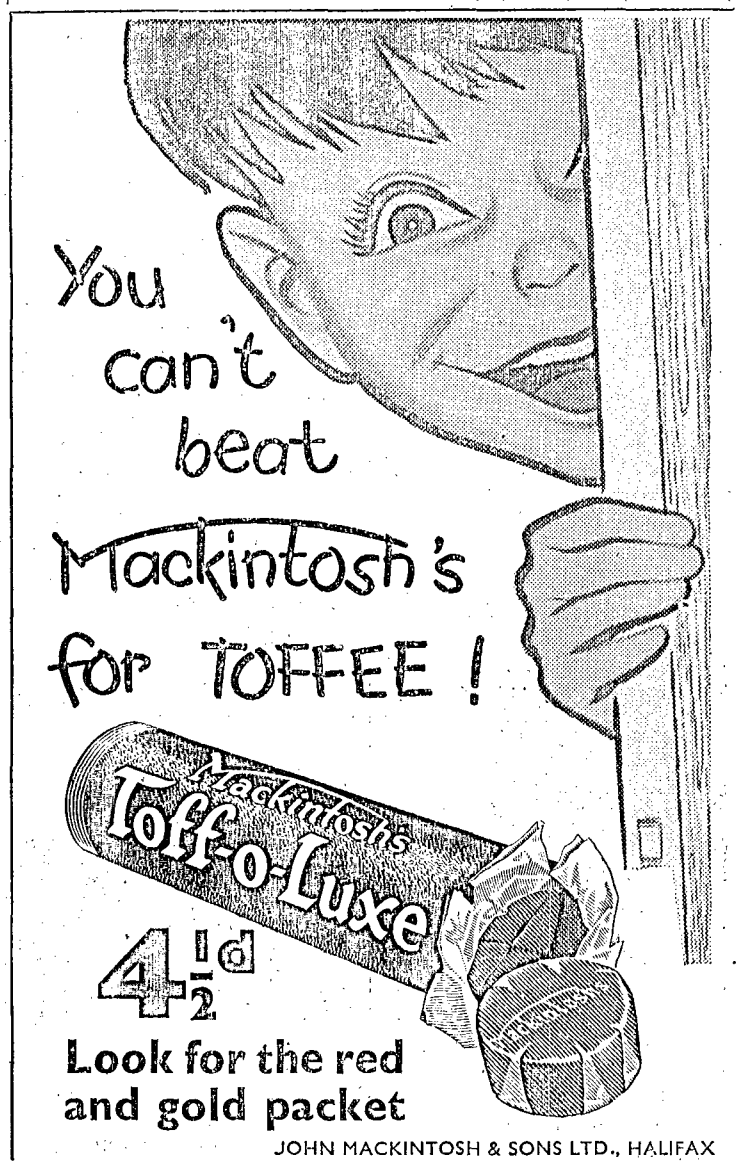
At Elba, the 29 Italian fishermen who helped in the search and rescue operations after the loss of the Comet airliner G-ALYP, were given certificates by the British Ambassador recording Britain's gratitude.

SNAKES AT HOME

Snakes have been entering houses and laying eggs in the Breckland district of Norfolk and Suffolk.

A "Church of World Peace" has been dedicated at Hiroshima in Japan.

A 5000-mile reliability test round the coast of Australia has been won by a British-made Auster-Aiglet trainer aircraft.



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PRECIOUS BLACK SAND

"Come unto these yellow sands," wrote Shakespeare, but at Yamba, on the coast of New South Wales, sands of another colour interest the residents. Washed up on the beach by rough seas are thousands of tons of black sand, and this kind of sand contains rutile, a mineral in great demand throughout the world.

Rutile is used in the manufacture of titanium, which is a metal about as strong as steel, yet as light as aluminium. It is eagerly sought after by the aircraft industry. Some 80 per cent of the rutile used in the U.S.A. comes from the beaches along the north coast of New South Wales.

SHINING IN THE SCRIPTURES

We congratulate two Suffolk C N readers on their notable Sunday School work.

Daphne Medcalf, of Wickhambrook Congregational Church, is 13 and in the last six years has won three silver medals in National Sunday School scripture examinations, as well as various other honours and prizes. This year she has won fourth prize in the lower middle section of the N.S.S.U. examination, in which there were 20,000 entries.

Nine-year-old Gerald Willis of Clare Congregational Church also has a proud record; and this year he won first prize in the N.S.S.U. exam, and went to London to receive his award.

PLANES TO THE RESCUE OF TREES

Two Auster aircraft have been used to spray insecticide over 2500 acres of forest at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire, where more than 100,000 trees were threatened with destruction by the little pine looped moth.

The operation was repeated at Colbin on the Moray Firth where pine trees, planted to stop the sand dunes moving inland, were also threatened by the pest.

NEW BOY FROM TOGOLAND

Among the newly-enrolled students at the London School of Economics this autumn will be T. O. Asare, a young man from the West African territory of Togoland. His progress will be watched with interest from a Government office in his own country, from the Ministry of Education in Indonesia, and from the U N Headquarters in New York.

Indonesia is interested in Mr. Asare's studies because they have sponsored the scholarship which has sent him from Togoland to study in London.

The United Nations is interested because this is the first of many three-pronged arrangements under which promising scholars are sent from a Trust Territory with funds provided by another country to study in yet a third country.

Togoland is interested, too, because when Mr. Asare has completed his studies he will return to help this territory to prepare itself for eventual independence.

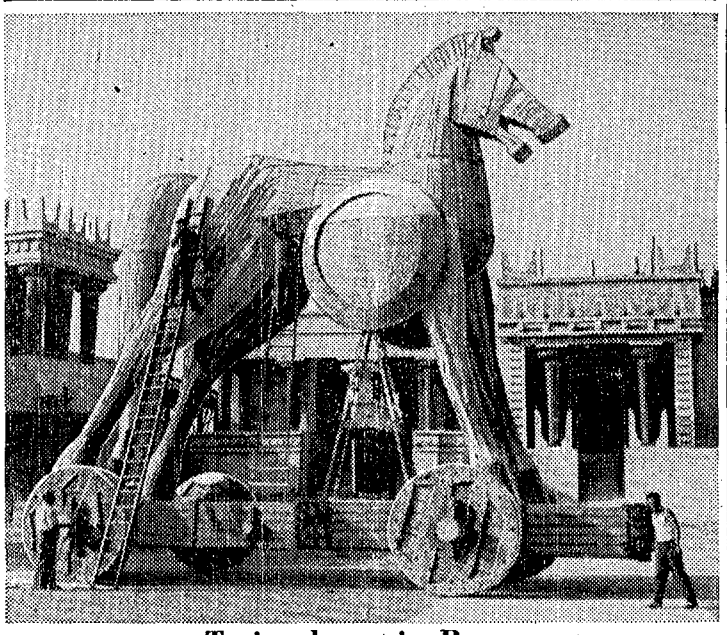
In time, similar opportunities will be extended to students from all the Trust territories, for the governments of Yugoslavia, Turkey, the Philippines, Norway, and India have offered to sponsor other scholarships to bring the benefits of modern learning to the aid of backward peoples.

TOBOR ROBOT

Tobor, the giant robot in aluminium and Perspex, who accompanies the showing of a science fiction film in different parts of the country, draws attention to himself wherever he goes.

Tobor, whose picture we gave in a recent C N, clanks across the road—always choosing a safe crossing. Like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, he always has a crowd of children following him.

The Robot, who is the star of the film, arrived in this country on June 2; since then he has travelled several thousand miles on the back of a lorry, operating in all weathers. Valued at £5000, Tobor is electronically controlled.



Trojan horse in Rome

This wooden horse, 40 feet high and weighing 20 tons, has been made in Rome for a film called Helen of Troy. Containing 25 "Greek soldiers," it will be used during the filming of the well-known incident in the Trojan Wars.



Artist at the airport

A familiar sight at London Airport is 23-year-old David Shepherd, an artist who specialises in painting aircraft. Here we see him putting the finishing touches to a canvas.

OLD IRELAND UNDER THE SAND

Interesting discoveries of ancient Ireland are being made during excavations on a little island in Valentia Harbour, County Kerry.

The island is Beginis, about a mile long, and the excavations are taking place under the supervision of Professor M. J. O'Reilly, archaeologist of University College, Cork, assisted by Mr. E. M. Fahy, of Cork Museum.

After six weeks' work a circular stone dwelling has been brought to light from beneath the sand which has hidden it for perhaps 12 centuries. It is about 25 feet across at the top of the walls, which are of loose irregular stones. At the floor level the walls are nearly seven feet thick, growing narrow towards the top.

It is believed that what lies farther down may eventually reveal valuable information about the mode of life of the island's primitive inhabitants.

IRELAND'S LAST COURT OF CONSCIENCE

Ireland loses a link with the past from September 1, when Londonderry's Court of Conscience—the last in Ireland—ceases to exist. The Governor of Northern Ireland, Lord Wakehurst, made an order to this effect on June 21.

The Court of Conscience dates back to the days of King George III, but it has not met since before the war.

Courts of Conscience originated as means of recovering small debts. They sat frequently, and as costs were low they were used chiefly by poor citizens who could not afford legal action in the ordinary courts.

GIANT LOLLIPOP

The world's biggest lollipop has been given to patients in the Victoria Children's Hospital, Hull. Four feet high, and over three feet across, it was broken up and distributed among the 50 children in the wards.

The lollipop was a gift from the children of members of a local social club who, on an outing to the seaside, were given the giant sweet for themselves. But they decided to give it to the hospital.

LAST JOURNEY OF THE VIKING

A vessel belonging to the fleet of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, the Viking, has been withdrawn from service after sailing for nearly 50 years between Fleetwood and Douglas and carrying nearly ten million passengers.

In 1907 the Viking set up a record for this crossing—two hours three minutes at an average speed of 23.9 knots.

Fleetwood Corporation has been offered the ship's bell as a memento.

ONE GOOD TURN—

A party of 12 London boys have been spending a camping holiday in Germany as guests of the Y.M.C.A. there. They are all members of the Save the Children Fund's junior clubs.

Last year the S.C.F. invited a party of 20 boys from Displaced Person camps to spend three weeks at their Holiday Home in Essex. Now, probably for the first time, the D.P. boys have felt themselves in a position to give something to others.

The British lads have been camping on the Luneberg Heath at Sunderhof, near Hamburg. They were all nominated for the trip as valuable members who were likely to make good ambassadors, representative of the ordinary London boy.

MILLION-DOLLAR PICTURE

A picture for which a Chicago art collector paid 450 dollars is now thought to be worth 1,000,000 dollars (about £357,000).

The picture, painted on wood 25 inches by nearly 21 inches, was sold by a New York dealer. Since then an American art expert has examined the picture and declared it to be a Madonna and Child by Leonardo da Vinci, overpainted by an amateur. With the overpainting removed the original has appeared clearly.

It has also been found that the picture was exhibited in London in 1882, and again in 1894, as the work of Andrea Solario, a pupil of Leonardo.

Can you identify this

FOUR-JET DELTA* BOMBER?



* *Revolutionary design and Bristol Olympus jet engines are features of the world's first four-jet, delta-wing bomber — now on order for service with R.A.F. Bomber Command. Performance details are still top-secret. It is the Avro Vulcan.*

There's a place for YOU IN THE R·A·F

To be in the Royal Air Force today is to be a pioneer of the supersonic age—an age of miraculous aircraft and of fantastic speeds. Yet stirring advances in the air can only be achieved if the men who fly and service our aircraft are specialists in their jobs. And *the* way to become a specialist in the R.A.F. is to join when you're between 15 and 17½ — as an apprentice. That way you start ahead and stay ahead. Write now for full details.



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NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

..... AGE..... DATE OF BIRTH.....

CAMERA CORNER

Continuing our series of articles to help young photographers to get better results.

23. Developing and Printing (2)

You will require at least one measuring jug of 20 fluid ounces (one pint) capacity. This is the common British measure for photographic purposes, although the Continental system of grammes and cubic centimetres is becoming popular. Some photographic jugs are expensive, but plastic ones graduated in ounces cost under two shillings.

As you are developing the film in a tank you cannot see what is going on and development is controlled by time and temperature; the rule is the higher the temperature, the shorter the development time.

The correct time is shown on the developer bottle, and this must not be reduced or exceeded, or too light or too dense a negative will result.

DEVELOPERS

Of the numerous developers available, the "Universal" type is excellent if you intend to make contact prints; but use "Fine-grain" if big enlargements are your aim. Both can be obtained in concentrated liquid form, for use after dilution with water. This saves the trouble of mixing powders.

Liquid Acid-Fixer-Hardener can be obtained in concentrated solution. The fixer dissolves the emulsion which has not seen the light and has not been blackened in the developer. This ensures that the negative image will be permanent. The substance used is Sodium Thiosulphate, commonly called HYPO.

A weak acid is added to kill off left-over developer and preserve the hypo. These substances are joined by a hardener which hardens the emulsion, preventing scratches which may damage the image.

When the film has been loaded, the developer is brought to the right temperature (usually 68° F.) and poured in. The film is then agitated at regular intervals with a stirring rod in order to ensure even development.

AVOIDING DISTORTION

After development, the solution is poured away and plain water put in for about 1½ minutes. The water temperature is kept close to that of the developer. If this is not done, the emulsion may become distorted (reticulation) and this shows as a very grainy appearance on enlargements.

After the wash, fixing solution is added at the same temperature for 15 minutes; intermittent agitation is necessary. The fixer can be stored afterwards for future use.

The last stage is washing to remove the fixing solution. This is done by letting water pour from the tap into the top of the tank for 30 minutes. The film can now be hung up to dry in a warm dust-free room and a bathroom is often best.

W. S. S.

HOVERPLANE FOR THE BUSINESS MAN

Many European business men whose work entails frequent journeys may soon be using an 80 m.p.h. light helicopter instead of cars.

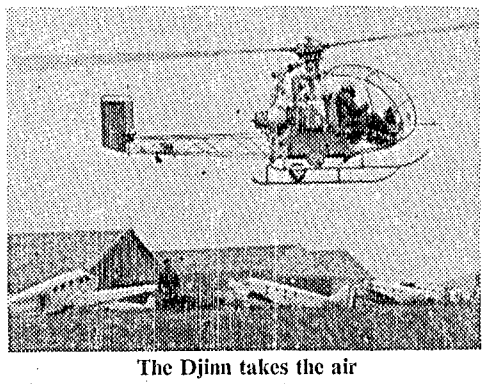
Built in France, the Djinn is one of the simplest, cheapest, and least noisy helicopters yet designed. Last year one was flown to a height of 15,712 feet, setting up a new international height record for helicopters weighing less than 1100 lbs.

The Djinn is powered solely by hot compressed air generated by a small Palouste turbine, fitted with an oversize compressor unit. The air is forced through the rotor hub, then piped along to the tips of the two 16-foot rotor blades, where it is expelled from jet nozzles.

Critics of the noise made by helicopters will find that from a short distance the Djinn is almost noiseless; only close-to can the familiar whine of the jet engine be heard, and even then it is very faint.

The Djinn is one of the few helicopters that can fly from its own mobile "airfield." A small flat truck provides all the heliport room needed, and enough fuel and spares can be loaded on board to keep the Djinn flying for 100 hours.

The fly-away price in Great Britain will include the cost of training the pilot—probably the first time that this has happened since the very earliest days of flying. But then the helicopter is bringing with it an age of its own.



The Djinn takes the air

OFFICE IN THE AIR

A transport plane now being converted for the special needs of the Saudi Arabian Government, has a fully appointed office and 20-seat passenger compartments, and a bathroom.

The plane is a 300 m.p.h. Consolidated Convair Liner.

FIRE FROM THE SKY

During a thunderstorm at Loftus, Yorkshire, an 18-ton stack of hay was set alight.

At first it was thought that the blaze was caused by lightning, but after the fire a meteorite, shaped like a frying-pan, was found.

It happened this week

HORSE-DRAWN TRAMS

AUGUST 30, 1860. BIRKENHEAD—Hundreds of excited spectators lined the streets here today when England's first horse-drawn tram, running on iron rails laid in the street, travelled a mile and a quarter from Woodside Ferry to Birkenhead Park at four miles an hour.

Each carriage is 24 feet long, 7 feet wide, and has gaudily-coloured seats for 24 persons inside and 36 outside.

The trams were built by Mr. Main of Birkenhead, but the idea is chiefly due to Mr. G. F. Train of Boston, who proposed this new service to the Birkenhead Commissioners five months ago.

Similar trams are already running in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Plans are being made to run them in Manchester and Glasgow.

NO WELCOME FOR THE QUEEN

SEPTEMBER 1, 1842. EDINBURGH—A flustered, red-faced Provost sat idly with the magistrates in the Council Chamber today while her Majesty Queen Victoria, accompanied by Prince Albert, was driving in State through empty streets on her first visit to the Scottish capital.

They had mistaken the hour of her Majesty's landing at Granton this morning, where she was received at nine o'clock by the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Lieutenant of the County.

The Provost claims he received no reply to a letter requesting information on the timing of the tour, which he sent to the Home Secretary two weeks ago.

Later this evening the Provost and magistrates waited upon the Queen at Dalkeith Palace to offer their apologies for failing to welcome her at the Edinburgh city boundary.

During her Majesty's 14-day visit to Scotland she will visit the Earl of Mansfield at Scone and the Marquess of Breadalbane at Taymouth.

(Two days later the Queen received a tumultuous welcome on her return to Edinburgh, which she had previously taken by surprise.)

REVOLUTION IN PARIS

SEPTEMBER 4, 1870. PARIS—Amid shouts of enthusiasm from the people who had swarmed into the Chamber of Deputies, M. Gambetta today proclaimed the end of the imperial dynasty of Napoleon III and declared France a Republic once again.

This revolutionary action follows yesterday's surrender of Napoleon III, and the defeat at Sedan, by the Prussians, two days ago, of 80,000 French soldiers commanded by General McMahon.

A Provisional Government, under the Presidency of General Trocha, has been proclaimed from the Hotel de Ville.

An official proclamation states that the Republic has the same object as that of 1792—"the expulsion of the foreigner."

ON THE AIR—by Ernest Thomson, our Radio and TV Correspondent

CALLING ALL SCOUTS

Camp Fire to be seen on TV

Most Boy Scouts will try to be near a TV screen on Friday for Scout Night in the TV arena at the Earls Court Radio Show.

Television broadcasts in previous years from the Camp Fire Circle at Gilwell Park have been so successful that the Boy Scouts' Association was asked to stage a special Camp Fire programme for Arenascope. More than 250 boys from all over the world will form a circle of friendship in songs, sketches, and dances.

Duncan Ross, the well-known scriptwriter, who introduces the programme, tells me he was once a King's Scout himself.

By happy coincidence he is just now spending a houseboat holiday at Poole Harbour, Dorset, within 200 yards of Brownsea Island, where, in 1907, Scouting began.

All Greek to Me

Many are the roads which lead to Children's Hour. The other day David Davis, better known as David, who heads the programme, received a letter which read as follows:

"At school we heard a terrifically interesting talk by Sheila Porter, who is in the Upper VI Form. She told us all about Greece and Crete and Rhodes, where she went last summer. Would you ask her to do it again on our Children's Hour, please? From us all. P.S.—She lives here."

Sheila, who left school last term and is going up to Oxford, was duly invited to give her talk. All Greek to Me, as her programme is called, will be heard in Children's Hour on Friday.

Favourites all at Earls Court



Fishhawk preparing one of his illustrations of wild-life. In the background is Percy Edwards, the well-known bird imitator.

More favourites from Children's TV, and some newcomers are taking part this week during the Earls Court Radio Show. A visitor on Thursday will be Buck Hurst, the magician; the same afternoon Fish-hawk will talk about, and draw, migrating ducks.

Ross Salmon, the cowboy, will be seen on Friday and viewers will also meet Tollefsen, the brilliant young Norwegian accordionist.

Mouth organ film music

Larry Adler, the harmonica wizard, who composed the music for the film Genevieve, has now composed music for a new TV film, London Pride, to be shown in the near future.

His appearance in Children's TV recently caused a tremendous outburst of harmonica playing among young viewers, especially in the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, where over-enthusiasm led to blistered lips. Adler afterwards paid a visit to the hospital and proceeded to give a lesson in harmonica playing.

To compose music for the London Pride film, Larry Adler used an unusual method. The film, which evokes the varying moods of the big city, was shown to him silent in the projection theatre at Lime Grove. As he watched he improvised tunes on the harmonica which were recorded on magnetic tape.

Back home, he played the recordings over and over again, then welded them into a London Rhapsody which has been fitted into the film sound track.

Pair of nuisances

Two boy actors—13-year-old John Marshall of Paddington, London, and 15-year-old Colin Wall of Hounslow—have been told to make nuisances of themselves for an afternoon and evening.

That, at least, is how their job was described to me by Richard Afton, who joins Berkeley Smith in presenting TV's London Fair on Saturday. This is a double-barrelled show, with scenes in a fun fair and circus in the Arena blended with a big variety programme in the Studio next door.

"The boys will be dressed as urchins," Richard Afton told me. "They must be in and out of everything, and in everybody's way."

TV in Ireland

Because Northern Ireland is still out of working range of a mobile TV unit, the BBC is setting up a special film unit with HQ in Belfast. It covers as many events in the Six Counties as would normally be dealt with by a TV unit. Films are flown to London and televised with not more than a 24-hour time lag.

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ROUND THE TOWNS—Alan Ivimey goes into the Garden of England to visit . . .

MAIDSTONE

THE county town of Kent, Maidstone, or "Medway's town," leans up the side of a gentle hill east of the river and in the angle made by the little tributary of the Len.

As you come in on the London or the Tonbridge road you see, right and left from the town bridge, just about the most contrasted pair of views you could well have. To the north it is all factory chimneys and smoke, with great heaps of coal on a wharf in the foreground. To the south, the old Archbishop's palace dreams and watches its reflection in the water.

Straight ahead, if you cross the bridge, the noble High Street is seen stretching up the hill, its upper part still divided into two by a line of houses and shops which ends with the old Town Hall built on arches. You can see at once that High Street was

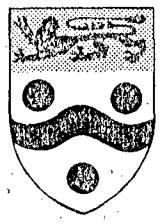


Chillington Manor House, now Maidstone Museum

formerly the market place; but now there are more cars in an hour than ever there were cows in a day.

So here before you, from the bridge, you see the three Maidstones in the order of their history—Church Maidstone, Market Maidstone, Industrial Maidstone. Much of the latter is traditional for paper-mills and breweries, and metal manufactures have been here for centuries, though agricultural engineering and bus and lorry building have replaced the hammer-making and cannon founding of the 16th century.

A bridge carrying a main road across a river is often the founding of a town's importance, if not of its existence. But the first bridge we know of seems to have been the one built by Archbishop Courtenay at the end of the 14th century. And we find, if we start looking, that the town has changed the centre of its life at least three times; its beginnings had nothing to do with the river crossing at all.



Maidstone's Coat of Arms

There seems no doubt that Maidstone began as a small settlement on the Roman road running from Rochester to Hastings, through the iron-working area of Sussex. The original main street must have followed the line of this road, which is now seen in Week Street and Upper and Lower Stone Street.

After the Norman Conquest the Archbishop of Canterbury built himself a palace down by the river which would have given him easy access, on an ebb tide, to Rochester, where there had already been a bridge for nearly a thousand years.

MEDIEVAL Maidstone seems to have consisted almost entirely of this one long street, with an extra cluster of buildings round the palace. Not until the Reformation deprived the See of Canterbury of its fine house here and turned the place over to private hands, did what is now the High Street begin to be the principal thoroughfare of the town.

Maidstone was not on the Pilgrims' Way, for that old track crossed the Medway lower down stream. But for pilgrims to visit Maidstone on the long march to Canterbury meant going only a short distance out of the way. And only a minute's walk or so from where we are standing is the old stone hall of the Brotherhood of Corpus Christi. Beside its pointed doorway you can see the hatch where food and drink were passed to needy pilgrims.

After the Reformation this building was used for 300 years by Maidstone Grammar School before it moved to more modern premises. The old hall stands close to the river to remind us that the Medway, rather than any road to London, was the town's chief commercial highway in former times.

The coal we can see beside the water comes by barge and reminds us that within a hundred years of the town being granted its charter (in 1549) Maidstone's iron, stone cannon-balls, corn, timber, hops, nuts, and fruit were being shipped down the Medway and up the Thames in ever greater quantities to the wharves of London. In the 1660's a towpath was made and some locks built to speed navigation and make it more independent of droughts or floods.

WELL, we have taken rather a long time over our reverie from the bridge, so let us now take that little street to the right and stroll along to the riverside terrace.

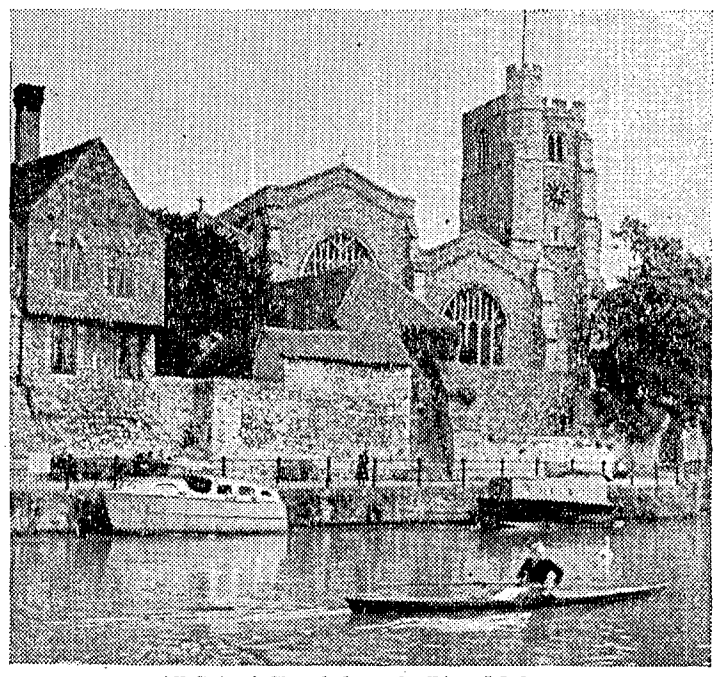
We come to a garden and green lawns and the Archbishop's Palace, now used by the town as a social centre. By ringing the bell and asking permission, you can see over it. The main chamber, beautifully panelled, was the dining room of the Archbishops and the noble families who owned it afterwards; now it is used for socials and dances, but the recess for the musicians still keeps its old use.

In the gardens you can see arches of the medieval bridge over the little River Len. A nice touch linking present times to past was supplied the morning I was there because someone had been fishing in what used to be, perhaps, a mill pool and had got caught up in an overhanging tree and left his cast and float hanging from a branch. I thought how Bluff King Hal might have seen just the same sight here that day when he rode over this very bridge on his way to Dover and the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

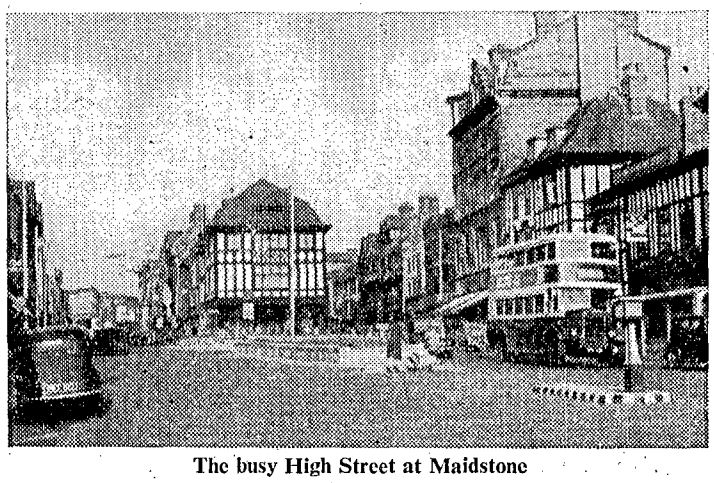
Maidstone's great parish church is next door. Its magnificent interior is full of interest. Here still are the oak stalls, dark with age, where the monks of the College of All Saints sat daily for their services.

The College—what remains of it—is just across the churchyard and still has a fine old gatehouse and a line of buildings leading down to the ferry. Beyond the Medway at this point was the Archbishop's deer park.

BUT what you must see at once is the Carriage Museum, housed in the Archbishop's Stables against the churchyard.



All Saints' Church from the River Medway



The busy High Street at Maidstone

Do you know the difference between a phaeton and a cabriolet, or, for that matter, between a gig and a dogcart? Well, here are the answers. Almost every kind of horse carriage is to be seen here, from a retired London horse bus to the handsome coach (black with scarlet wheels) of the twelfth Earl of Moray.

He had it built specially for his honeymoon, but at the last minute his wedding was cancelled, and this broken-hearted bridegroom would never let the vehicle out of the coachhouse. And it has never been used.

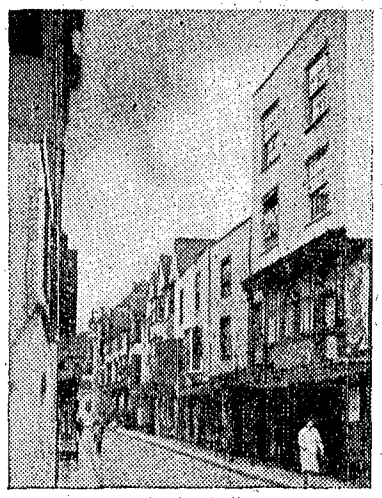
There is another excellent museum in an old house in St. Faith Street. It is called Chillington Manor House and it has, among many other treasures, a fascinating collection of dolls going back many generations. But something else which especially caught my eye was among the Roman exhibits—some crockery from a Roman ship wrecked on Pudding Pan Rock off Whitstable. For how many centuries did these handsome pieces, ordered by some impatient early British housewife, lie under the sea?

REMEMBER that amid all these relics of quiet country life Maidstone saw one of the fiercest fights of the Civil War, in 1648. And that in June 1944 the town was hit by shells fired from German batteries on the French coast, over 60 miles away. This must have been just about an artillery record.

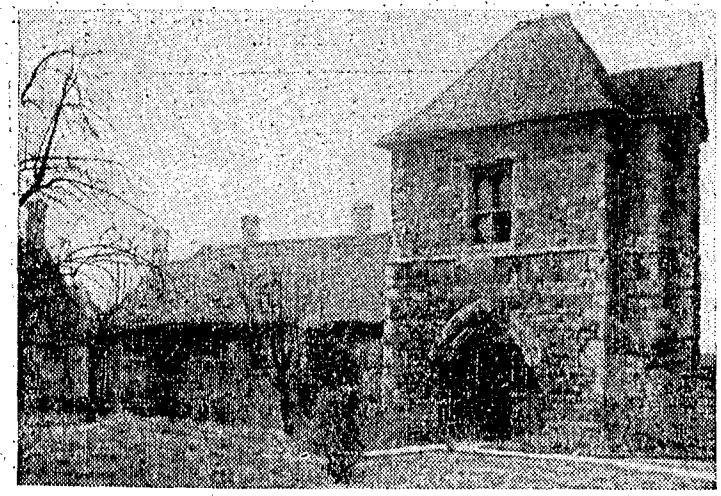
It takes all sorts, you see, to make a world—and a town, too.



The Archbishop's Stables, home of the Museum of Carriages



Shops in Bank Street



Part of the 14th-century Ecclesiastical College

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House, Whitefriars · London · EC4

SEPTEMBER 4 1954

CRY OF THE CHILDREN

JUST over a century ago, the conscience of Britain was stirred by Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem, The Cry of the Children:

Do you hear the children weeping, O my brothers,
Ere the sorrow comes with years?

It was an appeal for the boys and girls of Britain condemned to work in factories and mines.

Now comes an appeal on a far wider scale, made by the United Nations Fund (Unicef) for the millions of children throughout the world who are, like those in Mrs. Browning's poem, "weeping in the playtime of others."

More than half the world's children live in squalor and die in want: poverty, hunger, ignorance, and disease cast grim shadows over them all their days. They sorely need help, and to this end Unicef is this month starting a great campaign to make its work known and to raise money.

There can be few among us who are unable to help: 2s. 6d. buys enough powdered milk to give five children a glass of milk every day for a week; 5s. buys vaccine to protect 25 children against diphtheria.

Unicef has already gone to the aid of more than 70 million children in 92 countries, but to carry on its grand work it depends to a great extent on support.

We may be sure that the youth of Britain will be eager to lend a hand to those boys and girls whose future is bound up with our own. Help given to these children today may ensure peace for the world tomorrow. Let their cry not go unheeded.

The Editor's Table

NEW YEAR FOR METHODISTS

THE first Sunday in September always marks the beginning of a new year for the Methodists in this country.

On this day it is customary for the President of the Conference to preach at Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London. (This year, owing to his attending the Evanston Conference in U.S.A., described on page 2, the official service was conducted some weeks earlier.)

On this day, too, the hundreds of Methodist ministers who have changed circuits face their new congregations for the first time.

A Methodist minister leads a roving life. He does not usually stay in one place for more than three years but is moved by the Conference from circuit to circuit. Nowadays it is true his stay may be extended up to seven years but this is exceptional. So he moves from manse to manse taking only his personal belongings with him, for the bulk of the furniture in a manse is the property of the circuit in which it is situated.

No wonder that when the time for him to retire comes a Methodist minister says he is going to "Sit down."

Think on These Things

KING AHAB summoned Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, to go to war with him against the Syrians, and to take the important city of Ramoth-Gilead.

Jehoshaphat asked that the prophets be consulted first, and when they were called, knowing what Ahab wanted them to say, they bade him go against Ramoth-Gilead, and the Lord would yield it him.

But Jehoshaphat was not satisfied. He felt that the prophets agreed too readily with the king's wishes, and asked if there were not another prophet who might be consulted.

Ahab replied that there was Micaiah, but that he always gave bad news rather than good. However, he was called, and the messenger who fetched him said that he would be wise to agree with the other prophets.

"What my God saith, that will I speak," was Micaiah's reply.

It sometimes takes courage to speak the truth, but a true friend will do it.

All at sea

MOST of us are familiar with the methods of model-makers who put ships into bottles and then pull the masts erect with thread.

But experts at the Model Engineer Exhibition in London were puzzled by a tiny sailor operating a lathe 21 by 17 by 7 inches inside a bottle with a two-inch neck.

Several theories were put forward: that the bottle was made round the model; that the model was made of a substance which soaked up water and expanded; that it was just an illusion.

But the solution we liked best was put forward by a young visitor. "It's obvious," he said knowingly. "The lathe was built by the little sailor himself."

On Drake's green



This new sign at Plymouth stands in the shadow of the Drake Memorial on the Hoe. It is close to the spot where Sir Francis Drake played in 1588 before going out to defeat the Spanish Armada.

As Others See Us

THERE is a legend that before the Battle of Fontenoy, in 1745, the English general rode towards the French army and said: "Messieurs les Français, tirez les premiers!" (French gentlemen, you fire first).

But French children are taught that it was their general who said this to the English. An amusing book recently published in France suggests that when the English army suddenly appeared out of mist, the French general cried: "Messiers! Les Anglais! Tirez les premiers! (Gentlemen! The English! Fire first!")

In any case, says the author, if these words had been addressed to the English, no one would have understood them, "for it is the privilege of the English not to understand any other language than their own. And even if they do, they must never so far debase themselves as to let the fact be known."

That is all very amusing, of course, but the author is behind the times. Never before have so many young people in this land studied foreign languages.

TO GOD AND MAN

He's true to God who's true to man wherever wrong is done,
To the humblest and the weakest 'neath the all-beholding sun.

J. R. Lowell

THE GRATITUDE OF MR SWEETLOVE

A PARTY of 22 Yorkshire miners and their families who spent a ten-day holiday on the Continent were given a farewell dinner at their hotel in Ostend by Mr. Oscar Sweetlove, the head of a Belgian printing firm.

Mr. Sweetlove, who had contributed to their enjoyment in other ways, told them that as a child during the First World War he was among the Belgian refugees taken to Ossett, Yorkshire. He had never forgotten the kindness of the people and was trying to repay some of their hospitality.

When he read in the Ossett local paper, which he still receives every week, that this party was coming from the area, he made up his mind to welcome them as soon as they arrived.

A pleasant tale of gratitude.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, September 6, 1924

WE are very glad to see a protest in The Times against the small number of non-smoking carriages on our trains.

Our new railway managers are doing many good things, but in this respect the railways have gone backward and not forward. It is one of the misfortunes of the amalgamation that the best solution of this problem was abandoned.

This was the solution hit upon by the South-Eastern Railway—the idea that, instead of labelling certain carriages SMOKING, a passenger was allowed to smoke unless forbidden by a label NON-SMOKING.

It was found to work very well in practice. Then came the amalgamation of the railways, and in order that all railways should have the same rule the new principle was abandoned.

JUST AN IDEA

As George Herbert wrote: Keep good company and you will be of the number.

THEY SAY . . .

I DO not want people to take a pessimistic view of road casualty figures and think that we are fighting a losing battle. In 1934 the number killed on the roads was 7343, and it has never reached that figure since, in spite of the immense increase in the amount of traffic and population.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport

PEOPLE have been coming to me for advice for years. But few ever take it. They want to be encouraged to do what they are already doing.

Mr. Bernard Baruch, American elder statesman

SAILING will start at 2 p.m. if the weather clears up, which it won't.

Notice chalked on a board at Folkestone

A VILLAGE hall is the centre and very hub of rural activity and ensures a way of life that is part and parcel of our homeland.

Lady Hope Dunbar

OCH, it's nothing.

Robert Wilson, a Scottish farm worker towered 350 feet down a cliff to rescue a man

Out and About

THE wet, wide sands of the marine estuary shine golden in the sunset, and there is a haunting music all along the shore, a kind of whistling that is half singing.

Many ringed plovers keep making brief singing flights, their plaintive and sweet voices coming one after the other and sometimes in chorus. They alight on the sands and run about, snapping up worms, insects, sand-hoppers, and any shrimps left behind by the tide.

The ringed plover, whose call sounds like *too-wee,* is smaller than the green plover (lapwing), and its name is due to a black line round the base of the neck, like a string to tie the piece of black that resembles a bib on the bird's breast. C. D. D.

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship improves happiness, and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy, and the dividing of our grief.

Cicero

Under the Editor's Table



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If boys who dodge homework are taken to task

Books are not always food for thought. Cookery books are thoughts for food.

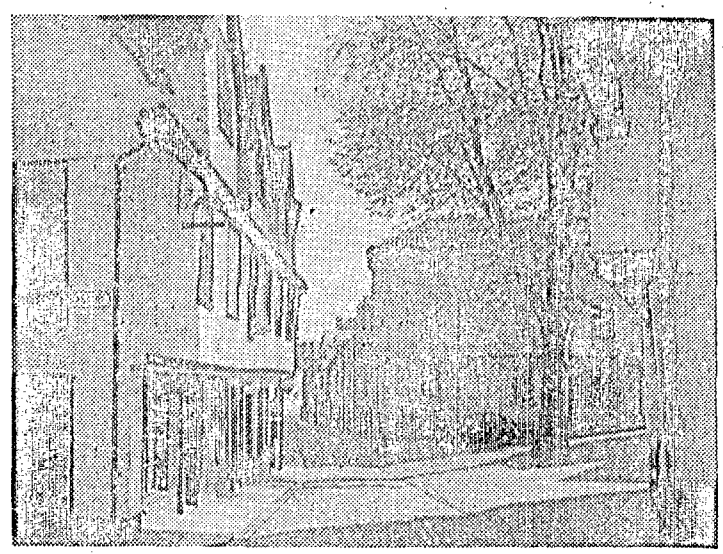
Acres of reading matter are produced every week. No one can plough through it all.

People who like things in apple-pie order may be hard to live with. Get crusty?

Rain has been the subject of much conversation. Makes good patter.

A party ought to be made to go. Before the guests.

Too many people grumble about the weather. But what else can they do about it?



OUR HOMELAND

A quiet corner of old Norwich

SCOTLAND'S DAZZLING SHOP WINDOW

QUEEN ELIZABETH the QUEEN MOTHER is to visit Glasgow this Thursday to open the Scottish Industries Exhibition in Kelvin Hall. It is an event of great importance not only for Scotland but for the whole of Britain, for in this fine hall, its entrance now decorated with 700 yards of Royal Stewart tartan, over 300 firms in 100 different industries will be exhibiting their products.

Here until September 8 will be displayed the biggest collection of Scotland's best merchandise ever brought together, and buyers have come to it from many countries. At the last exhibition, in 1949, there were half a million visitors, and the value of orders received exceeded £10,000,000.

Not only is this impressive show a valuable booster of Britain's export trade, it reveals the lion's share that craftsmen north of the Border take in our national industrial enterprise.

GREAT SHIPBUILDERS

The Scots are, for example, leaders in shipbuilding, and in some years launch one quarter of the world's tonnage of new ships. Last year nearly 40 per cent of Britain's new merchant ships came from Scottish yards.

Scotland makes 70 per cent of the United Kingdom's output of boilers, 60 per cent of the coal-cutting machinery, 90 per cent of the sewing machines, nearly two-thirds of the linoleum, and one-third of Britain's substantial production of carpets, typewriters, watches, clocks, and cash registers.

The largest steam boiler works in the Commonwealth is at Renfrew. The world's biggest sewing-machine factory is at Clydebank, and its biggest rivet-making factory at Glasgow. Kirkcaldy is probably the world's biggest linoleum manufacturing town.

BIGGEST INDUSTRY

Textiles are Scotland's leading industry, employing 125,000 people in 600 factories. Her tartans, tweeds, knitted cashmere, sweaters, and so on, are appreciated throughout the world. Every day at Kelvin Hall there will be mannequin parades which will display clothes made of Scottish material, and there will be many examples of the colourful tartan cloth. Demonstrations of hand weaving will be given at the Harris Tweed Association's stand.

But a brilliant shop window calls for competent salesmanship. At Glasgow everything is being done for the customer's information and comfort. There is an Exhibitor's Club open to buyers, there are Buyers' Lounges, Restaurants, Interpreters' Office, Information Bureaux. For the many overseas business men "National Days" are to be held, when special attention will be paid to the needs of customers from one particular country.

GORILLA'S DIET

The gorilla in Chicago Zoo is on a diet.

From now on his daily meals will consist only of 22 pounds of fresh fruit, vegetables, and bread, followed by three quarts of milk, because the authorities want to keep his weight down to 550 pounds.

RUSSIA REBUILDS AN OBSERVATORY

Representatives from the world's leading observatories, including Greenwich, recently visited the Soviet observatory at Pulkovo which has been built on the site of the one destroyed by German invaders during the siege of Leningrad.

One of the outstanding new pieces of equipment at Pulkovo is a telescope designed by D. D. Maksutov. Mirror-type or lens-type telescopes each have their advantages and disadvantages. Maksutov's telescope combines both mirror and lens, so that each offsets the shortcomings of the other.

Some of the equipment was salvaged from the wreckage and has been returned with improvements.

Of particular interest is the interferometer, which is used to separate double stars. The one at Pulkovo is mounted on a gun turret from a German warship.

Representing Greenwich Observatory at Pulkovo, Mr. D. H. Sadler remarked that the new Soviet observatory will again take its worthy place among the astronomic institutions of the world.

MARILYN WANTS TO DANCE

One of the youngest students at a well-known London ballet school is 16-year-old Marilyn Winans, who recently arrived in Britain after travelling by herself from Reading, California.

At home Marilyn learned to drive her father's car so that she could travel 70 miles to the nearest ballet school at Chico. She has long wanted to study in Britain; and when a former dancer at Sadlers Wells now living in America gave her the name of a London ballet school she persuaded her parents to let her come for one year.

Making themselves at home in the snow

By the end of the summer another 2000 airmen will have graduated as *builders*—igloo, or snow-house, builders.

Every fortnight since early Spring a C-119 air transport of the Royal Canadian Air Force has flown another batch of airmen to one or other of the seven Igloo Building Schools established in Canada's Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. The most northerly of them is on Cambridge Bay, Victoria Island, a distance barely the length of Britain from the North Pole.

SERVICE AND CIVIL PILOTS

Trainees include not only men of the R.C.A.F., the United States Air Force, and some from Britain, but Canadian civil pilots operating on the new air routes across the Polar Regions. They also include "bush pilots," the free-lance airmen who serve the more remote settlements.

The igloo schools are the result of increased flying in Northern Canada. Not only do air liners operate across the extreme north of Canada but air transports serve the new mining towns springing up in the "Barrens," including the new iron centre of Burnt Creek in Labrador, and the new uranium mining towns of Northern Saskatchewan.



An Eskimo shows airmen how a snow-house is built

These schools were founded because of the tragic sequel to a forced landing by a transport aircraft in Labrador twelve years ago. The crew got down safely but did not know how to survive. The temperature hovered around 40 below zero, and they just huddled in their aircraft away from the cold, and froze to death. Had they known how to build an igloo they would have been safe.

The snow-house offers complete protection against Arctic frost and wind and, of course, the Eskimos, who invented it, are adepts at igloo-building. Thus when the Canadians established the first of their igloo schools after the war, they staffed it with Eskimo building instructors.

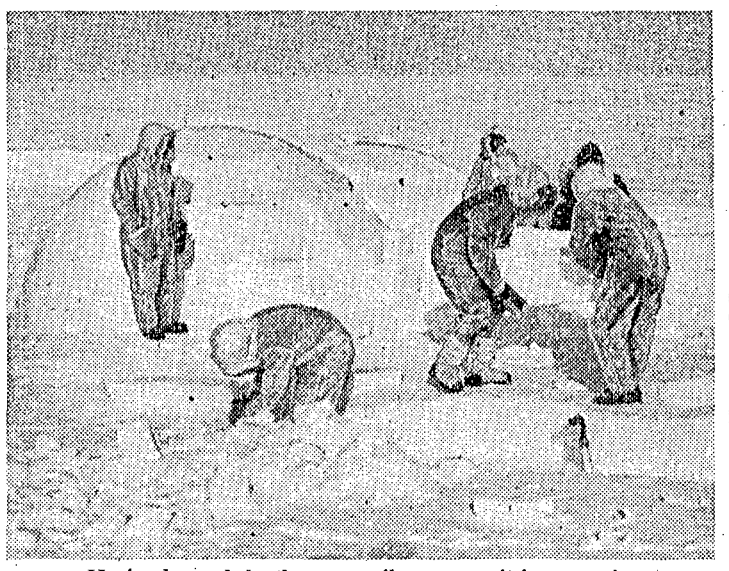
The flame from one candle will raise the temperature inside an igloo to 10°F. when the temperature outside is 20 below zero. Blow out the candle and the moisture on the walls will freeze, making them windproof; and with walls windproofed a small paraffin pressure stove will produce enough heat to allow a man to strip to the waist.

THEORY AND PRACTICE

The Eskimo instructors at the igloo schools not only teach their airmen students "theory" but also give practical instruction in cutting the snow blocks, laying them in a circle with each row brought inwards to form the dome of the roof. They also give practical instruction about living in an igloo; in catching wild game; and fishing through holes cut in sea ice six or seven feet thick.

At the end of each 14-day course the students are flown back and another batch takes their place.

The training safeguards airmen against the risk of death from cold when forced down. And with the knowledge of how to build an igloo in which to shelter they can also safeguard their passengers against the worst hazard of Canada's Arctic "Barrens."



Having learned the theory, pupils must put it into practice

NEW WINDOW IN LONDON'S DUTCH CHURCH

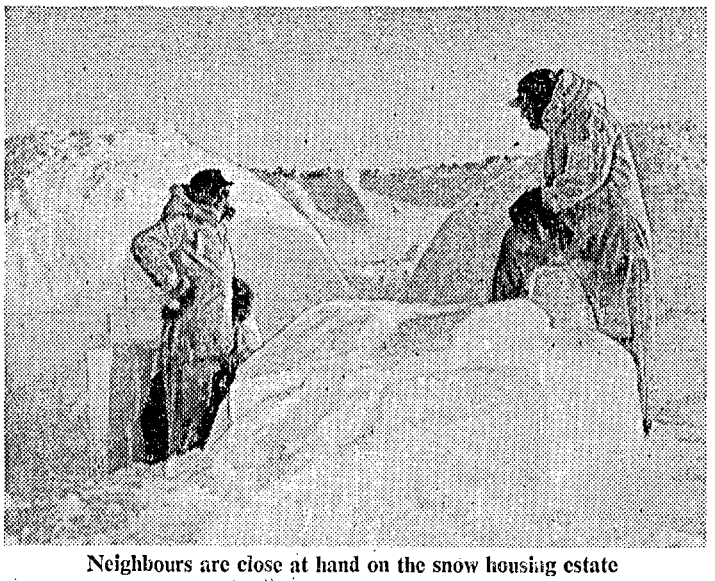
A wonderful new church window is to be seen in London. It is in the new Dutch Protestant church in Austin Friars in the City, replacing the building destroyed in the war.

The big west window was designed by a Dutch artist, and it represents the history of London's Dutch church. Edward VI granted a charter for its foundation for the benefit of Protestant refugees, mostly from Holland, and his portrait is on one side of the window.

In 1950, just four hundred years after the charter, Princess Irene of the Netherlands, then only eleven, laid the foundation stone of the present building, and her picture is seen on the other side of the window. Two figures are in the middle, one of St. Augustine, patron saint of the priory of Austin, or Augustinian, Friars which was on this site from the thirteenth century until the monasteries were dissolved. The other is of the first superintendent of the church.

At the top of the window are to be seen ships such as the Dutch settlers used when they sailed to this land. Then two narrow windows show the welcome given to them by sixteen English towns.

The main doors are decorated in bronze with the flowers of Holland—daffodils, anemones, and tulips.



Neighbours are close at hand on the snow housing estate

AFTER THE LAST YEAR AT SCHOOL

What Next? That is the challenging title of a booklet issued by the London County Council for boys and girls in their final year at a secondary school.

It contains valuable information on how school-leavers can obtain full-time or part-time education, or training for various occupations.

Some school-leavers can afford to wait for two or three years before becoming wage-earners, and for their benefit many full-time courses are offered at polytechnics and technical colleges where there are no tuition fees for students under 18. Almost all the sciences, arts, crafts, and commercial subjects are taught, but newcomers must show that their secondary education has given them sufficient groundwork to enable them to carry on the studies.

For young people who must begin earning as soon as they leave school, there are many part-time classes at technical colleges and day colleges. Many employers nowadays are willing to release their juniors for a day a week to attend these.

Copies of What Next? can be obtained free from the Education Officer (G.P.3) at the County Hall, S.E.1. The courses described are additional to those detailed in the L.C.C.'s book Floodlight.

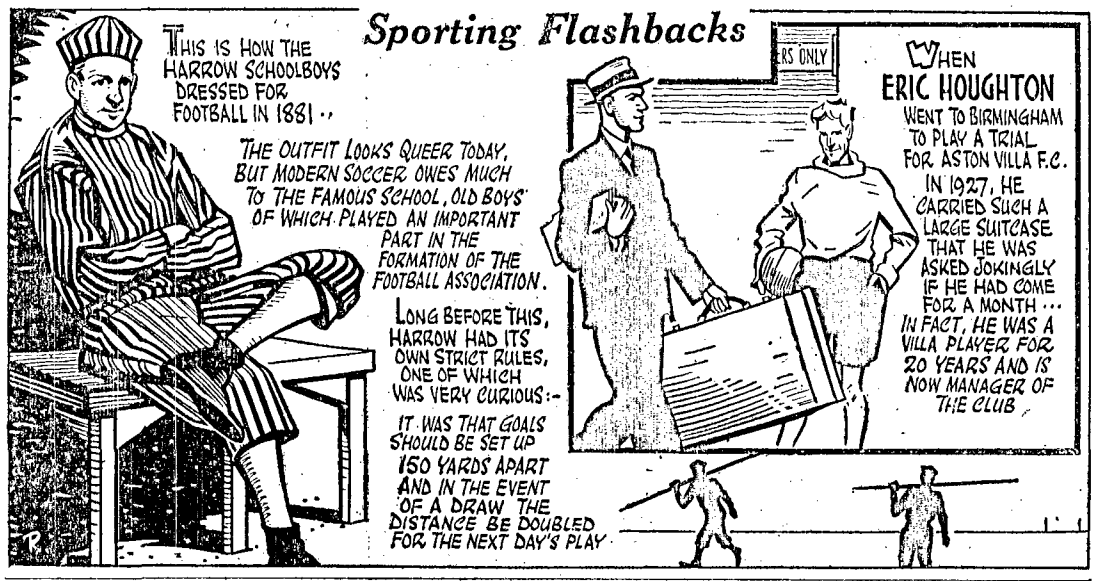
QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

London's evening class students have an almost bewildering variety of subjects to choose from in the session beginning on September 27.

Among more than 500 courses listed in Floodlight, the L.C.C.'s guide to evening classes, are such unusual studies as diamond mounting and armature winding, shirt-cutting, and surgical shoemaking. There is also saw-doctoring, which is not a crude form of surgery but the craft of keeping saws on edge.

Besides these, of course, there are scores of more everyday subjects, for the L.C.C. caters for almost every need of the student.

Floodlight costs only sixpence, or eightpence by post.



TWO FILMS TO MAKE US ALL CAREFUL

"Of a provocative nature, designed to make you think." That was the verdict of Miss Mary Field, expert on children's films, at a recent showing in London of two new Road Safety Films; and there can be no one who would disagree.

One of the new films, Chain of Events, is a simple story of a family of four preparing to set out for a day's trip to Windsor.

There are the hurried preparations most of us know so well: the chickens have to be fed and father must dash off to buy some chicken food. The son, while cleaning his bicycle chain, loses a link and dashes off on his sister's cycle to buy another. It is just this frantic hurry that eventually stops their Windsor visit and takes one of them to hospital instead.

Every detail of the little story is true to life; that is the secret of the film's thought-provoking quality.

A REPORTER'S VIEW

The other film, Someone Else's Child, also takes us into familiar surroundings—the busy streets of a suburb. A reporter (played by James Ottaway) on the local paper is told to write an article for Road Safety Week, and as he wanders round the crowded streets, noting for the first time people's road behaviour, he is amazed at what he sees.

Particularly surprising to him is the bad example often set to children by grown ups; the fond aunt beckoning a favourite niece to come to her across a busy street; a child pulling back her mother, about to cross in front of a car; a dreamy 13-year-old girl supposed to be in charge of a child—who eventually has to take charge of her; a tiny boy running out into the street from his home because his mother, who "slipped" next door to borrow some tea and stayed to gossip, has left the front door open.

All these, however, are incidents in an appealing story about the reporter's own family. There are several young actors in it who play their parts excellently, and the youngest of them, a two-day-old baby, is surely one of the most youthful actors ever to appear on the screen.

Chain of Events was made by British Films, and Someone Else's Child by Film Workshop Limited. Inquiries about hiring them should be addressed to the Manager, Film Section, Ro.S.P.A. House, 17 Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1.

OLD CARS ON TOUR

A vintage car rally between two teams of ten motor cars representing Britain and America will be held in this country, starting from Edinburgh on Saturday. The route of 850 miles will end at Goodwood, Sussex, on September 11.

The American vehicles range from a steam-propelled Gentleman's Speedy Roadster of 1906 to a 1929 Duesenberg Speedster. The oldest car in the British team will be a 1906 Wolseley-Siddeley and the youngest a 1928 Bentley.

HAPPY LANDINGS

In a corridor at a United States Air Force station in Germany is this notice in bold red type: Please do not remove this crash landing equipment for young birds on initial training flights.

The equipment consists of a straw-lined box which stands under the nest where two fledgling swallows were hatched indoors at the station.

The box softens the young birds' falls while they are taking off for a flight up and down the corridor in the station.

ANCIENT SLIDE IN THE ANDES

A new Paramount film, Secret of the Incas, has an authentic background, for it was made in the ruined Inca city of Machu Picchu, 10,000 feet up in the Peruvian Andes. Helicopters and donkeys were used to carry film equipment to this remote "location."

An odd feature of Machu Picchu is a huge tilted slab of granite which is probably the oldest children's slide in the world. It has a long groove in the centre worn smooth by the feet of thousands of youngsters who, squatting on their heels, happily slid down it in bygone centuries. But today the only boy who uses it is the son of the caretaker in this strange relic of a past civilisation.

LAST CHIEFTAIN'S REFUGE

Lofty Machu Picchu, perched above one of the sources of the Amazon, is said to have been the refuge of the last chieftain of the famous Inca Indians. He is thought to have come here with his family and his priests when the Spaniards overran his country.

The mountain stronghold, probably built between A.D. 900 and 1100 remained unknown to the outside world until 1911, when an American expedition discovered its ruins buried under earth and vegetation.

Roofless houses and temples built of huge granite blocks came to light, as well as swimming pools, the remains of fountains, beautiful terraces, and stone staircases. Most impressive was a sundial carved in the rock. Called "the tethering post of the sun," it was used by Inca astronomers for making accurate solar calculations.

MORE SWANS ON THE THAMES

Swans are becoming more numerous on the Thames. They are now often to be seen crowding round riverside inns and yachting stations for scraps of food. Over 900 were counted between Henley and London in the swan-upping this year—200 more than last year.

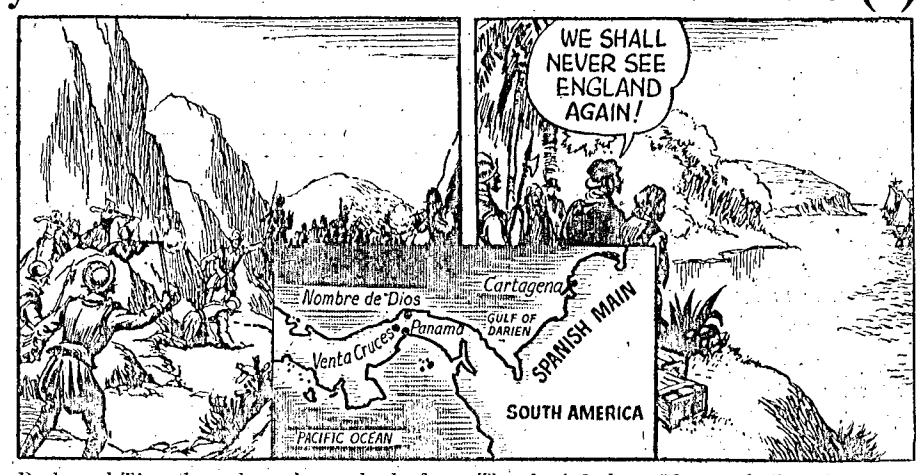
ELIZABETHAN SEA-DOG—new picture-story of the adventures of Sir Francis Drake (4)



The sailor's folly had indeed warned the Spaniards. They allowed part of the convoy to continue, but the raiders found that the gold and jewels had been returned to Panama. Realising that Spanish troops would now be sent against him, Drake resolved to reach the shelter of the forest by way of Venta Cruces. He took that town easily, protecting the women and unarmed civilians from his Cimaroon allies.



The party marched back to their secret hiding place on the Gulf of Darien. Later, on a cruise, they met a large French Huguenot privateer whose captain, Têtu, asked for water and food. He said he had been seeking the English captain and wished to join forces with him. Drake, who sympathised with the French Protestants, agreed on condition that they should share equally all they took from the common enemy—Catholic Spain.



Drake and Têtu planned another ambush of an overland treasure convoy. A combined English-French party, with Cimaroons, lay in wait beside the road near Nombre de Dios. This time the ambush was successful. But the guards put up a fight before they fled, and Captain Têtu was wounded. Fearing an attack from Nombre de Dios, the victors speedily stripped the mules of their huge load of gold. They buried about 15 tons of silver, hoping to return for it later. Then, staggering under as much gold as they could carry, they marched to the river-mouth where their pinnaces had been ordered to meet them. But when they reached it there was no sign of their boats. And a little way out to sea were seven Spanish pinnaces! It looked as though their own vessels and their comrades had been captured!

Can these English and French adventurers escape with the treasure they have captured? See next week's instalment

MYSTERY ON THE MOOR

by Garry Hogg

Nessa and Lance Conway, on holiday in the West Country, meet the Young Squire, Clive Hendry, and tell him of suspicions they have about an isolated house known as Twigg's Folly. They pay another visit to the place, but there they are stopped by a surly man who allows them to enter, but soon afterwards tells them to go. With Clive, Nessa and Lance call on Mr. Faldino, proprietor of a fair, and enlist his aid in a party which is to raid Twigg's Folly.

13. We close in

TIME dragged. We began to wonder whether Saturday would ever come. And then, in the late afternoon, suddenly and without warning, everything began to happen at once. Starting with the zoom of Clive Hendry's red car roaring up to the cottage.

"Zero-hour—or almost!" he shouted, and he was over its side and through our cottage doorway almost in one leap.

"Developments?" Bruce asked.

"Whining-voice has moved in on Sanderson, one of my scouts reports. A posse of plain-clothes men attached to the Somerset and Devon Constabulary are kicking their heels impatiently up at the Hall, and a number of local uniformed men are waiting, too. A bunch of electricity men have arrived, to look after their own interests. And goodness knows how many local farmers and farm-workers with a useful knowledge of the moor——"

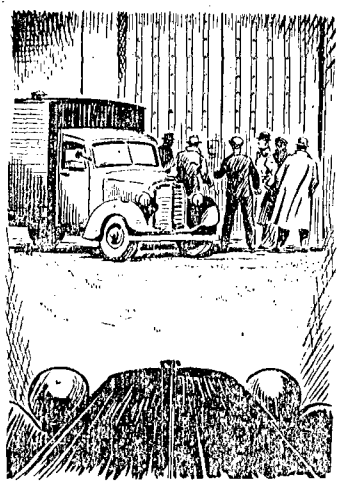
"And where do *we* come in?" I interrupted.

Clive and Bruce looked at us, with a twinkle in their eyes. "You? Why, do you think *you* ought to be in on this?"

"Of course!" Nessa and I said, in one breath. "You promised we should be 'in at the kill'."

"So I did!" Clive said, as though he had quite forgotten. "Bring 'em along in your car, Bruce. I've got to pick up Faldino and a couple of pals of his."

"Supposing Sanderson drives his caravan off, while we are all



The gateway was floodlit, and a Black Maria blocked the exit

getting ready," I said, struck by the awful thought. "With Whining-voice, too."

"He won't," Clive said, as he went down the garden path. "Oddly enough he woke this morning to find that his nag had slipped its tether and had vanished. Now, I wonder who is responsible for that!" He grinned. "He will be a very worried man, by now."

Soon afterwards we were roaring down the lane in Uncle Bruce's car. Next thing we knew, we had pulled up in the great courtyard of Hendry Hall; and there, clustered purposefully together, were a number of land-rovers, a van of the electricity authority, some police cars, and a police van.

"A Black Maria!" I whispered to Nessa. "That looks like business!"

A tall, soldierly-looking man came to meet us and shook Bruce's hand warmly. Bruce introduced him, and we learned he was Clive's father. "So you are the youngsters who have set all this elaborate machinery in motion, eh?" he said. "Stout work, the pair of you!"

Convoy moves off

Then Clive turned up, trailed by Mr. Faldino and two of his fairground men in one of their cars. Immediately, everyone went into a huddle. Then they all broke up into different-sized groups: police, electricity men, Bruce and Clive and ourselves all piled into various land-rovers and vans. Mr. Faldino and his men, with some policemen, were in front.

As the convoy moved off dusk had fallen, with a thin haze that was not quite a mist—just what we really needed. It was difficult to judge distance in the half-light, but before long we knew we must be getting pretty near the quarry.

Then, suddenly, we were level with the quarry, the head of the convoy already past it. Two dogs on chains snarled, and a curl of pipe smoke came from the upper half of the caravan doorway. Looking back through the rear window of our land-rover, we saw a black car detach itself from the convoy and halt alongside the caravan. Two uniformed figures jumped out, and at the same time we saw Mr. Faldino and his party doubling back down the side of the convoy to join forces in the quarry.

Mingled voices

There followed voices raised in protest, angry voices, one of which we recognised as that of the caravan owner and the other as that of Mr. Faldino. There were other voices, subdued, professional, firm—those of the police. And just as the signal came to us to continue on our way, we caught the whining voice of Sanderson's visitor, the double-crosser in his hide-out.

"That's him!" Nessa said to Bruce. "I would know his voice anywhere!"

We were moving forward again, slowly, the whole convoy moving in absolute silence except for the low purr of engines and the faint crackle of the grit and stones beneath our wheels. None of the convoy carried lights, and it was quite an eerie business creeping forward like this, nose to tail, between the dark turf on each side and the darker clumps of heather.

The track levelled out a bit and we realised we had reached the crest of the moor. Soon we would be at the castle. We always thought of it as that, rather than as Twigg's Folly; I suppose we always thought of Mr. Benedick as being in a state of siege.

"They are slowing down," Bruce muttered. We had run up quite close behind the vehicle in front of us. "Must be pretty well there."

The charge

Then a low whistle came from someone unseen not far away, and a man in shaggy clothes with a dog close at his heels came striding over towards us. "Squire?" he said, in a low, powerful voice, and we heard Clive, somewhere ahead of us on the track, reply.

Then, from not very far ahead of us, dogs began to bark—dogs that we had heard before. They had got wind of us!

From each vehicle the occupants jumped to the ground, and all made for the outer wall, which we could now distinguish in the dusky darkness. There was a heavy thud, followed by another, as the leaders of the party battered at the main gateway.

"Come on!" a voice shouted, and there was a stamping of heavy booted feet as from all sides figures loomed up out of the dusk and raced forward.

The alarm was well and truly

Continued on page 10

IN YOUR GARDEN

23. Sowing a lawn

THERE is still time to sow grass seed in order to have a lawn next Spring.

Dig the ground well and make the soil fine by first treading on it and then raking to remove stones and large lumps of earth. Do not roll at this stage.

Using from one to two ounces of seed per square yard, divide it into two equal lots and sow it in opposite directions. Very lightly rake it in, then gently roll or pat the ground down. Keep birds away with black cotton stretched across the area on twigs.

When the grass is about one and a half inches high, roll it gently, and a day or two later mow it lightly just cutting off the tips. Cut regularly after this, keeping the grass about half an inch high. Never allow the grass to grow as high as three inches before cutting.

On a small lawn any weeds or coarse grasses should be removed as soon as they are seen.

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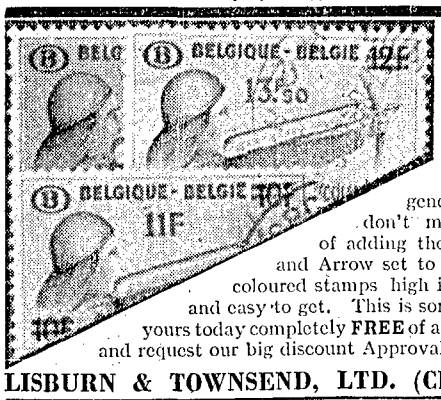
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GEORGE AND MARY ARE GOOD PARENTS

By Craven Hill, CN Correspondent at London Zoo

LARGELY because of the poor weather, this summer has been a bad one for Zoo hatchings and many important chicks have been lost. Nevertheless, some birds have been successfully reared; and the Zoo is expecting another triumph at the Mappin Terrace pond, where king penguins Mary and George are just now busy sharing the incubation of an egg which is due to hatch any day now.

George and Mary are behaving in exemplary fashion. Each holds the egg on the upper part of the feet for exactly two days, then carefully passes it across to the feet of the other.

Incidentally, the cagerness of both penguins to get "off duty" at the end of the 48 hours is amusing to watch. Directly the bird going off watch has got rid of the egg, he or she hurries into the pool for a bathe which lasts for some hours.

FOOD IN THE POOL

"On one day recently George spent so much time in the water that he would not even come out to get the herrings I had ready for him," Headkeeper Hubert Jones told me. "In the end, I had to throw them to him in the water."

If George and Mary can hatch and rear their chick, the youngster will be the third king penguin to have been bred at Regent's Park.

Two other attractions at the Mappin Terraces just now are Dilly and Dally, cubs born in January to brown bears Minnie and Pickles.

Dilly's latest prank is to climb to the top of a rock which his mother frequently passes. As she goes by he leaps onto her back and stays there, riding jockey-fashion around the enclosure. This trick is a rare one for a Zoo bear cub to indulge in, and so far has not been emulated by Dally.

Dilly's weight is now becoming formidable, but 17-year-old Minnie is a patient and uncomplaining parent. Not so Father Pickles, though. On one occasion Dilly made the error of jumping onto his father's back. He was promptly shaken off and received such rough treatment that he is unlikely to repeat the experiment.

In the Children's Zoo just now the main attraction is a baby zebra, the first ever to be seen there. He is George, a 10-month-old foal brought home recently from Kenya.

"We are not allowing him outside of his pen at present," an an official tells me, "for he has first to get used to his surroundings. Introducing a young zebra into the Children's Zoo is really in the nature of an experiment," he added. "Although they are most attractive animals, young zebras are nervous creatures—we have known one so timid that it was scared even of its own shadow and used to run all round its paddock trying to get away from it!"

CHILDREN'S CATCHES

From South America the Zoo has received a lizard and two bird-eating spiders. The unusual thing about them is that they were caught by schoolchildren.

"They were sent to us by Mr. Eric Phillips, a schoolmaster living in Paraguay, who is encouraging his pupils to collect small creatures for us," said an official.

The lizard, four inches long, is of a kind not before seen at Regent's Park. The spiders, both females, are the largest of their kind yet seen in the collection. They have a leg-span of nearly five inches—and hearty appetites.

MYSTERY ON THE MOOR

Continued from page 9

raised now. We heard shouts, mingled with more furious barking. A hoarse voice yelled to someone to open up, and there was more thumping—this time on the door of the castle. Someone switched on a pair of headlamps, and the gateway was floodlit. Drawn across it was the Black Maria blocking the exit.

Men were appearing as from nowhere, and we realised that Clive must have enlisted pretty well all the able-bodied men in the district, to surround the outer wall of Twigg's Folly and so ensure that no one managed to escape.

"I expect you are absolutely itching to be in it all, aren't you?" Nessa said to Bruce.

He laughed. "For once, it is *not* my pigeon. I'm just a privileged spectator, without responsibility!"

The shouting and the barking increased in volume and we could imagine well enough what was going on inside. There were yells and oaths, and thuds as doors burst open. But all the noise came, we were thankful to note, from the far end of the building, the opposite end to that which housed poor little Mr. Benedick and his sister.

Nessa and I must have been thinking along exactly the same lines; because just as I was going to ask the question, she said: "Bruce, can't we go in and tell Mr. Benedick everything is all right?"

"Not until we are satisfied that it is," he answered grimly.

Hardly had he said that when there was a blinding flash of brilliant electric blue, followed by a sound that started like a giant whip being cracked, and lengthened out into a tremendous roar. Our ears were still singing from the violence of the explosion and our eyes seeing a million stars when a sheet of flame burst out of a window in the far wing of the castle and swept upwards, lighting up the whole face of the building from ground level to battlements.

To be concluded



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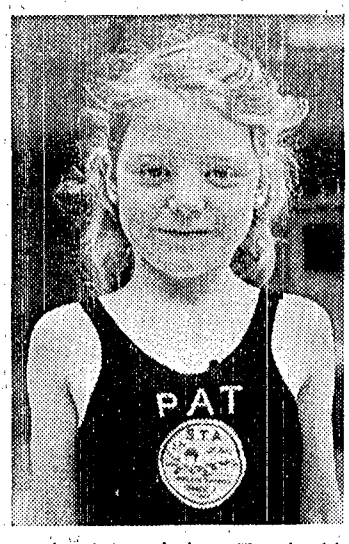
THE European Police Athletics Championships will be staged next week in Stockholm, and a strong British team of 19 will be competing.

THIS week the British women's golf team are meeting the U.S.A. in the Curtis Cup at Merion, Pennsylvania. Instituted in 1932, this tournament has only once been won by Britain—in 1952 at Muirfield.

GODFREY EVANS goes to Australia with the M.C.C. team this month as holder of the world's record for "victims" behind the stumps. In the final Test against Pakistan he claimed his 131st wicket, beating the record of Bert Oldfield, the former Australian wicket-keeper. Incidentally, Godfrey's young son Howard is a promising athlete. At the end-of-term school sports at Bearsted, Kent, he won four events—including throwing the cricket ball.

A YOUNG cricketer who may follow in the footsteps of his distinguished uncle and great-uncle is 15-year-old Shatrushalyasinhji—son of the Maharaj Jam Sahib of Nawanagar. His uncle was K. S. Duleepsinhji and his great-uncle was K. S. Ranjitsinhji, who both played for Sussex and England. Young "Shatrush" is in his first year at Malvern College, and after playing this season in the Malvern colts XI, he hopes to reach the First XI next season.

SIX-YEAR-OLD Pat Sargent of Islington (London) recently became one of the youngest-ever swimmers to win the bronze medal and certificate of the Swimming



Teachers' Association. To win this award she had to swim 50 yards front and back crawl, 50 yards breast stroke with racing starts and turns and other tests of skill, including diving.

HELEN WOODHOUSE, 18-year-old solicitor's clerk at Portsmouth, is the first woman to swim from Southsea to Ryde (Isle of Wight) and back. Her double Solent swim took her nearly 6¾ hours. Next year Helen is determined to swim the Channel.

SINCE he first set up a new Belgian hammer record in 1947, Hendrick Haest has broken his own record 24 times. His latest throw—and another new record—was 174 feet 8½ inches.

BILL ANDREWS, former Somerset cricket all-rounder, has been appointed coach to the county club. He will be in charge of the new indoor school at Taunton, which opens in December. Somerset, who have had to attract cricketers from other counties, now hope to develop the many young players from their own county.

AUSTRALIA'S John Landy has not forgotten his athletic club, Geelong Guild, on his world travels. The club is to lay a new track, so from each track on which he has run he has obtained a small sample of the cinders to send to his club with details of its composition and his comments.



To commemorate Sam Bartram's record of over 500 games in goal for Charlton Athletic, the club have named an entrance to their ground after him.

BILL PATRICK, of Calgary, Canada, was appearing in only his fifth competition when he won the Empire Games highboard diving title at Vancouver. In appreciation of his victory the people of his home town have raised more than 3000 dollars to enable him to remain at Ohio University until the Olympics at Melbourne in 1956.

IN the recent Swiss Grand Prix at Berne, Eric Oliver, of Crowborough, Sussex, who has held the world sidecar racing championship four times in the last five years, raced with his arm in plaster. His "passenger," Les Nutt, rode with an ankle in plaster. Both were injured in a crash at a German motor cycle meeting.

WHEN Len Hutton, the Yorkshire cricketer, sails with the M.C.C. tourists to Australia on September 15 he will add two more distinctions to a wonderful career. He will be the first professional captain of an M.C.C. touring team Down Under, and he will become one of the select band of cricketers to make seven overseas tours. Only Walter Hammond, with eight tours, has made more.

MCDONALD BAILEY, the former British sprint champion, who now lives in British Guiana, was seen in an unfamiliar role there recently. After a series of false starts at a sports meeting the starter's gun was handed to Mac.

A YEAR ago, 17-year-old Gordon Tindale of Hunslet, Leeds, was stricken by polio, and a promising football career was thought to be over. But this season Gordon is appearing in top-class Rugby League football for Hunslet.

RICH FERGUSON, the 23-year-old Canadian miler, who finished third to Dr. Roger Bannister and John Landy in the Empire Games, has been rated Canada's outstanding athlete for 1954 and will receive the Norton Crowe trophy, awarded annually.

UNDERGROUND WATERFALL IN HUNGARY

Engineers seeking new sources of water supply for towns in north-east Hungary, were puzzled by a stream which disappeared into the earth near a village.

So they put dye into the water and kept observation on the locality. Seven miles away another stream changed colour. Exploration of the underground watercourse was then begun. First the waters were diverted; then an expedition entered the tunnel from above.

Seventy yards from the entrance was a 45-foot waterfall, and 150 yards below that a whole series of waterfalls with a total drop of 200 feet—biggest fall of its kind in Europe. Then came an extensive system of caves, full of stalactites, and stalagmites.

One cave was so vast that the light of the explorers' lamps could not penetrate to the roof.

SECRET STAIRWAY IN THE INN

The landlord of a 300-year-old inn in Battersea High Street, London, made a discovery the other day that reads like a page out of a thriller.

He was cleaning a glass-fronted wall-cabinet when he accidentally kicked the wooden base. He heard a click, and then the front of the cabinet slid open to reveal a dusty shaft running from the first floor to the roof of the inn. The only way up is by footholds in the side.

It is thought to have been used centuries ago by smugglers, as the inn was once a smugglers' hideout. There are underground passages, now bricked up, which connect it with the foreshore of the Thames.

STAMP NEWS

A STAMP to celebrate the centenary of steam railways in Australia will be on sale from September 13. It contrasts a modern diesel train with an early type of locomotive.

BRAZIL has issued the first two values of a set to replace her current definitives, which have been in use for 14 years.

THREE new United States stamps bear portraits of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. The designs include a picture-frame border.

ZANZIBAR has issued five new stamps to mark the Sultan's 75th birthday.

PRIZES FOR C N READERS

The Vidor Portable Radio offered in C N Competition No. 8 has been awarded to Rita Evans, Dustom Road, Northampton.

Consolation prizes of 10s. notes were won by: Richard Benson, Huddersfield; Martin Dickinson, North Harrow; Roger Goodier, Gatley; Alistair Govan, St. Albans; John Herbert, Beeston; Mary Hill, Birmingham; Derek Hubble, London, S.W.20; Harold Krotoschiner, Bolton; Anne Stewart, Preston, and Michael Stones, Beeston.



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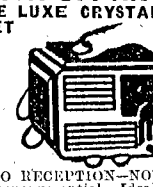
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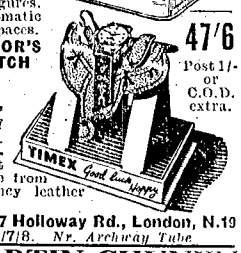
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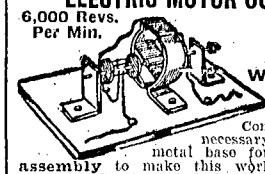
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ST. MARTIN CHUNKY PAINTING COMPETITION

Get out your paints and crayons and enter now for this simple and exciting competition.

Here is another list of lucky boys and girls whose paintings of outstanding merit have won them a special prize:

Christine Hodgson, 56, Cherry Tree Walk, West Wickham, Kent. (Age 13.) Patricia Upcott, 14, Holly Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 20. (Age 13.) George Edwards, Highgate Cottage, Macclesfield Road, nr. Leek, Staffs. (Age 15.) Christopher Russell, 69, Argyle Road, North Harrow, Middx. (Age 11.) Janet Luther, 32, Larksfield Avenue, Bournemouth, Hants. (Age 13.) Carol Furniss, 84, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N.6. (Age 11.) Helen Christian, Keasden, Clapham, via Lancaster. (Age 8.) Susanne Cole, "Delcombe," Dane Court Road, Parkstone, Dorset. (Age 11.) Michael Pennington, "Hillcot," 128, Macclesfield Road, Whaley Bridge, Cheshire. (Age 11.) Rosemary Chapple, 18, Fair Field, Hurstmonceux, Sussex. (Age 11.)

There are Bicycles, Watches, Dolls' Prams, Tricycles and many other thrilling prizes for all ages to be won monthly. Watch this paper for details of how to enter and for further lists of prizewinners.

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THE BRAN TUB

LEAVING THEM BEHIND

THERE was a kind lady of Leicester
Whom beggars did very much pester.
"As they will not stop it
I really must hop it,"
She said, as she moved off to Chester.

Pyramid puzzle

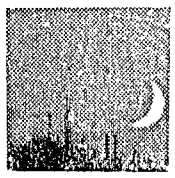
Can you build a pyramid of words with answers to the clues below? After the first, each line contains the same letters as the line before, though not necessarily in the same order, and each new line has one new letter added.

There are four in sunglasses
Like
Surrounds an island
Afternoon meals
Body moisture
Squandered
A waiter on board ship
In the direction of the setting sun

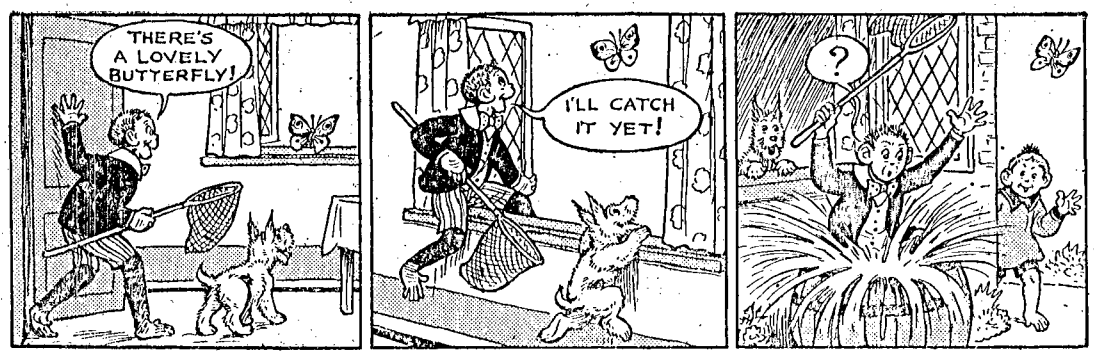
Answer next week

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Venus and Saturn are low in the west and Mars is in the south-west. In the morning Jupiter is in the east. Our picture shows the Moon as it will appear at eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, September 1.



JACKO'S BUTTERFLY STROKE CAUSES A SPLASH



Sammy Simple

"MY cousin must be very clever," said Sammy.

"Oh! What does he do?"

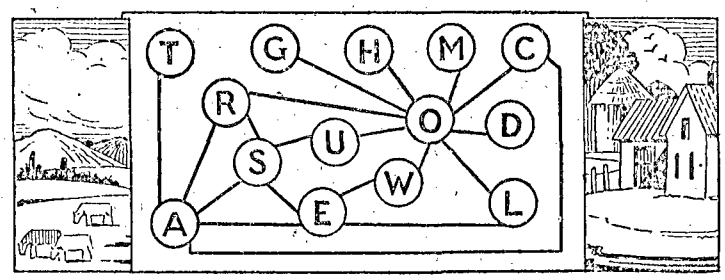
"Well, he tells me that he makes towel racks and clothes horses and all sorts of woodwork things all out of his head."

Playtime

A MERRY old otter from Bray
With the young ones would frequently play.
Jill Otter and Jack,
Would climb on Dad's back,
And then slide down a steep bank of clay.

Can you find eight countryside animals . . .

. . . by starting at certain letters and following the lines? *Answer next week*



Animals in a group

A GROUP of pups is described as a litter and a group of lions as a pride.

THREE-IN-ONE

HUGE amphibious animal
Building used for astronomy
The art of making speeches
Mass of luminous gas in the heavens
Midland industrial town
Grass used in paper-making
Town famous for carpets
Parasitic plant hung in homes at Christmas

To find the answers to these clues link three of the letter-groups below. Write the answers in a list and you will find that their first and last letters spell the names of two varieties of trees.

amus Axm Bir bu Es cto ham Hipp ins la ming Mis Ne Obse opot ory par Rh ric rvat ter tle to toe

Answer next week

Calendar House

A HOUSE at Ross, Tasmania, has 52 rooms, 365 windows, 12 chimneys, and seven outer doors.

SPOT THE . . .

CENTIPEDE as he scuttles quickly over the ground. Our most common variety is about 1½ inches long. Its shiny brown body is flattened and the long antennae contain many joints.



These creatures are often found lurking beneath pieces of wood or stone. They are great friends of the gardener, for they prey on numerous insect pests which are his enemies.

A centipede thinks nothing of attacking a worm many times its own size. It will seize its victim, partially paralysing it, with its claws, which are poisonous.

Out of place

WHICH of these items is out of place?

Hazel, beech, chestnut, ash

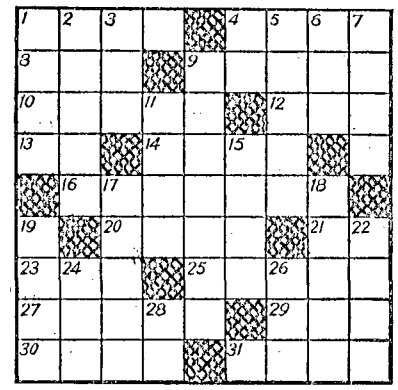
Ash: the others bear nuts

Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Time. 4 Store. 8 Exist. 9 Make amends. 10 Depressions. 12 Animal doctor. 13 Upon. 14 Pain. 16 Pleas. 20 Tear. 21 In the direction of. 23 Past. 25 Discourage. 27 Parts of the ears. 29 Anger. 30 Stalk. 31 Write with them.

READING DOWN 1 Border in room. 2 Stadium. 3 Number. 4 Street. 5 Poor dwelling. 6 Single. 7 Favourites. 9 Climbs. 11 Often red! 15 Loathe. 17 Explore. 18 Strict. 19 Friends. 22 Minerals. 24 Obtained. 26 Fasten. 28 Printer's measure.

Answer next week



Slightly muddled

"TAKE my word for it," cried the very nervous speaker, "they'll keep cutting the wool off the sheep that lays the golden egg until they pump it dry."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Three-in-one

E	ntom	B
D	isguis	E
W	ashingto	N
A	gincour	T
R	azorbil	L
D	ormous	E
S	alisbur	Y

First and last

Nod, not, now, nib, nub, nap, nip, net, nut, new, nit.

What am I?

Bullseye

STORY OF A FARTHING

THE farthing, which today costs about a halfpenny to mint and probably would not buy a single object, seems to have little use, but it was not always insignificant. In the Middle Ages it was possible to buy a chicken for a farthing.

The coin has a long history and can be traced from the Anglo-Saxon penny, known as early as 688. It was minted as a silver coin in the reign of Edward I and remained so until 1555.

In 1613 it made its appearance as a copper coin and in 1860 it became the bronze coin of today.

The wren design introduced on the reverse of the farthing in 1937 is said to symbolise the smallest of British coins by the smallest of British birds.

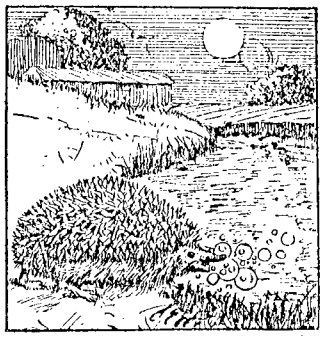
BEDTIME CORNER

The adventures of Algernon Hedgehog

ALGERNON had been the despair of his mother ever since his tiny, white, rubbery prickles had hardened and he could roll himself properly into a ball. For he would taste everything he found.

But not until one day, when a caravan party camped near the pond beside the hedgerow where he and his sisters lived, did he get into real trouble.

It began the evening the caravanners were out. Algernon went nosing round the camp and, climbing up the van steps, found the door ajar. In a second he was inside.



Soon he found a bowl of something standing in the sink. "Hurray! Milk, I think!" he squeaked, and began lapping splashily.

When he got home he told his sisters. "How clever you are!" they said. But in the morning, when it took them, and his mother, simply hours to lick his eyes and mouth open for him, they were not so sure. For it was thick starch, not milk, in that bowl! And in the night the splashes had stuck his eyelids and lips tightly together.

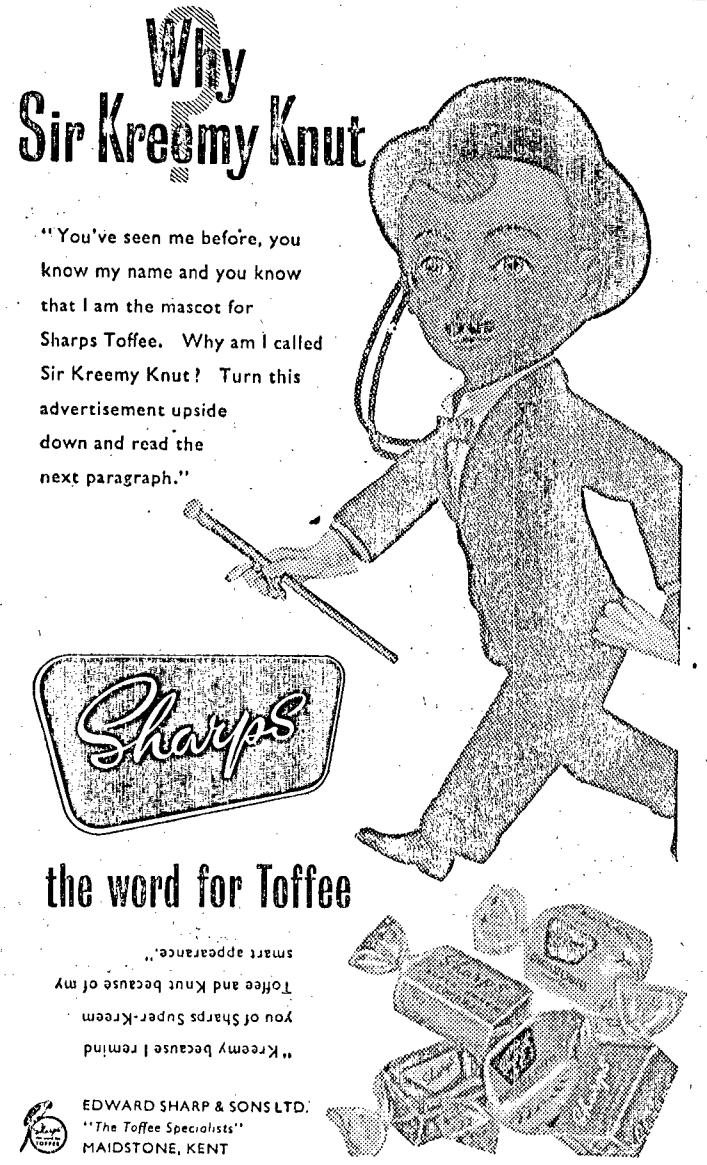
However, that evening, when everyone was in bed, he went to the camp again. Presently he found the children's paint box, open and forgotten, in the grass. And he licked the paints with great relish.

"How clever you are!" his sisters said again on his return. But they were not so sure when he had bad tummy pains in the night.

Nevertheless, some evenings later, he went adventuring round the van again. This time some upset soap powder took his fancy. But one taste was quite enough. Madly he ran to the pond to wash out his mouth.

Then, oh horror! Bubbles and bubbles of soapy foam lathered up as he gulped, until he was quite choking. "Never, never will I taste strange things again," he cried when the soapy suds had dissolved away at last.

JANE THORNICROFT



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